

Bavarian News

Vol. 5, Nr. 9 U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch May 6, 2009

GARMISCH
NEVER FORGET
Day of Remembrance
participants recall
the horrors of the
Holocaust

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HOHENFELS
GIVE THANKS
Garrison leadership
honors community
volunteers

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GO GREEN
Earth Day event
raises environmental
awareness in
elementary school
children

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SCHWEINFURT
GO TEAM
Youth program
developes skills,
understanding of
team sports

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MEDICAL
H1N1
Prevent the spread of
influenza, access up-
to-date data on H1N1
flu outbreak

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HONOR ROLL
The U.S. Army Garri-
sons Grafenwoehr, Hohen-
fels, Garmisch, Schweinfurt
and Ansbach congratulate
the academic achievements
of their youngest scholars.
Turn to pages four and
six for a complete list of
honor roll students.

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RELATIONSHIP Community relations event strengthens U.S.-German bond

by **MARY MARKOS**
Editor
The customary sound of artillery and aircraft as-
sociated with the Grafenwoehr Training Area fell
silent April 23 for members of the U.S. Army Garri-
son Grafenwoehr Community Relations Council as
they toured the Nine Lagoons.
The silence magnified the sounds of birds, bees

and moving water as members from the garrison's
environmental office explained the steps the U.S.
military is taking to not only preserve, but protect
the environment and land.
The tour came at the end of the day-long coun-
cil event, which brought close to 40 German civilian
and military leaders of neighboring communities to
Grafenwoehr and highlighted the facts and figures as-
sociated with the U.S. military's presence in Bavaria.

"USAG Grafenwoehr, and Efficient Basing-
Grafenwoehr, is a huge investment and decision
by the United States government to make this an
enduring installation," Col. Chris Sorenson, USAG
Grafenwoehr commander, said. "We showed the
outside community what the value of our installa-
tions in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels is to
them."
See FINANCIAL Page 25

'The kids' take TOP honors



Photo by Mary Markos

The youth cast of Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center's "Miss Nelson is Missing," (from left to right) Taylor Ausbrooks, Daniel Hale, Emily Manzo, Megan Markos, India Pinkney, Megan Moore and Jobee Kesler display their golden statue after winning ensemble in a comedy April 18 at the Installation Managemet Command-Europe Tournament of Plays "Topper" award ceremony. For the full story turn to page 25.

SAVINGS\$ Local stores rally to support American shoppers

by **KIM GILLESPIE**
USAG Grafenwoehr PAO
Saving 19 percent on your
German purchases is some-
thing every U.S. active duty
service member, civilian and
family member can take ad-
vantage of when using a Value
Added Tax form in Germany
for items under \$2,500.
The Grafenwoehr Business
Association is trying to make
this privilege easier and more
accessible for military person-
nel stationed in the Grafenwoehr
area by having businesses post
"VAT-forms accepted/English
spoken" stickers in their win-
dows to alert Americans shop-
ping on the economy.
"We were looking for a
way to show Americans we
See STICKERS Page 25

General: Partnerships key to military success

by **JASON TUDOR**
GCMC Public Affairs
Rare will be the occasion when the
U.S. military will operate by itself and
instead will rely on partnerships with
other nations going forward, said the U.S.
Army in Europe's top officer.
Calling any circumstance where the
U.S. takes action unilaterally "highly un-
usual," Gen. Carter Ham, commander of
U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army spoke
to about 150 students at the George C.
Marshall European Center for Security
Studies.

"Building partner capacities" is
one of the tenants of how the Army
operates in Europe and beyond go-
ing forward, the general said, talking
about operations and conditions across
the theater.
Currently, the U.S. operates with
41 countries in Afghanistan, 32 coun-
tries in Kosovo and 25 in Bosnia.
"We will go forward with our al-
lies and partners, developing common
tactics, procedures and policies," Ham
said. "We do it because we cannot
conduct operations as a single nation
any longer."

The size of the Army in Europe is
growing smaller, slashed from a Cold
War high of 200,000 to a current size
of about 70,000 soldiers.
Ham indicated the end goal for
troops in Europe is about 32,000,
which presents numerous challenges
given obligations of:
• NATO Article 5, which says an
armed attack on one nation is an armed
attack on all NATO nations
• Operation Iraqi Freedom
• Operation Enduring Freedom
• Activity in the Balkans
• Theater security cooperation; and

• Training exercises in Europe.
"The challenge is this: how I can
accomplish the mission with less
people and capability while operating
with the same capacity?" Ham said.
"We're concerned about sustain-
ing the level of commitment to joint
exercises throughout the theater. And
we think we can sustain it by building
partner capacity," he added
In building partnerships, the 33-
year Army veteran said the relation-
ship between the U.S. and other coun-
tries is not senior to junior.
See TOP Page 25

Customer comments spur improvements, changes

by **MELISSA WOLFF**
Assistant Editor
Service to the customer is an integral part of busi-
ness. One of the most important tools managers have
to evaluate the success of their service is customer
feedback.
By logging on to the Interactive Customer Evalua-
tion online, or by filling out one of the pink ICE cards
located at many service providers, a customer can
comment about his or her experience at an activity
or service location at USAG Grafenwoehr, ranging
from youth activities to the garrison's Department of
Public Works.
All comments received are read and tabulated by
the Customer Services office and by the specified ser-
vice provider. It is mandated that the service provider

respond to the comment within three business days if
the customer leaves contact information. While com-
ments can remain completely anonymous, Melynda
Weaver, Customer Service Officer for USAG Grafen-
woehr suggested that leaving contact information,
while not necessary for comments to be thoroughly
considered, allows the service provider the opportu-
nity to follow up and ask further questions to help
rectify a situation.
Darius Pratt, Business Operations and Integration
Division chief for DPW said, "We take the ICE com-
ments very seriously as an organization." He went on
to say that both positive comments and suggestions
for improvement are equally important. "It is very
beneficial and we are very motivated to respond to
customer inquiries and get them resolved as soon as
possible," Pratt continued.

As the largest service provider on post, DPW re-
ceives many comments, but organizations all over
post encourage the use of the ICE system.
Robert Anderson, a member of the USAG
Grafenwoehr community who uses the ICE system
regularly said, "Since I started using ICE about four
or five years ago it became a great venue to express
my views on our community. I quickly realized that
this tool is important and I have always received a
response."
Anderson, Weaver and Pratt all emphasized the
importance that all members of the community make
their voice heard by using the ICE system. This way,
feedback is accurate, positive services are encour-
aged and service providers can improve.
Access ICE online at <https://ice.disa.mil/> or link
to it from <http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil>.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Community recognizes military spouses, takes preventative measures for flu, suicide

As we enter the first full week of May, the recent H1N1 outbreak may make you feel like we are back in winter flu season. I want to again reassure everyone in our community that we will continue to closely monitor the situation and we are prepared to take any actions necessary to prevent the spread of this new influenza strain. We have recently updated our pandemic plan and immediately reviewed it to ensure our community is fully prepared.



If you or a family member feel like you are coming down with flu-like symptoms, please see your physician immediately to rule in or out the presence of H1N1. Our best line of defense is good surveillance, and our

health clinics stand ready to evaluate and treat patients, so please take action immediately. At this point, our best measures continue to be preventative: wash your hands; use tissues (not handkerchiefs) and throw them away; and avoid putting your hands on your face (in and around your mouth/nose etc.).

Another proactive measure in our community is our suicide prevention program. We entered Phase II, and began chain teaching to ensure that leaders at all levels take action to change how our Army values behavioral health care. It is now "OK" to see a behavioral health professional and "OK" means that no one will have their careers jeopardized by seeking this necessary care. It is our moral responsibility to remove this legacy stigma, and to ensure every Soldier and employee is aware of possible signs of suicidal thoughts and know what to do to get the individual the help they need.

We are an overseas based expeditionary Army that is subject to a host of stresses.

Fortunately, for those Soldiers and Families under financial stress, we have Army Emergency Relief (AER). Unit chain of command can provide instant approval for AER loans up to \$1,000. Ordinary requests totaling less than \$2,500 can be approved by AER personnel at Army Community Service. For larger amounts, CSM Berrios and I review and approve, or send to Headquarters, AER for their adjudication. Fiscal Year to date, we have provided more than \$384,833 in emergency financial relief to more than 303 Soldiers and Families in need. AER is a proven asset to mitigate short-term monetary needs and May is the final month of AER's annual fund raising effort. Please contact Christine Nunez, christine.nunez@eur.army.mil, if you are interested in contributing.

Supporting our Soldiers is a role we all take part in, but it is the military spouse who bears the families' responsibilities when the Soldier is deployed. Spouses also represent the military

in so many ways in our community. May 8 is the official Military Spouse Recognition Day, but every day should be a day we thank our spouses for their commitment to their marriage and to the Army. We call our NCOs the backbone of the Army. The spouses are the backbone of the Family and Army Families equal Army Strong!

I want to remind everyone that we have a Community Action Council meeting May 11. Please contact Melynda Weaver, melynda.weaver@eur.army.mil, at our Customer Management Service office if you have any concerns or comments that need our action. Remember, 'good enough doesn't live here!' - our community needs your input.

*Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

CSM CORNER



Spring clean-up efforts appreciated by garrison, recognition given to teachers, Asian Pacific heritage

I would first like to thank all of you who are participating in the garrison's spring clean-up which began Monday. This week's cleaning campaign is a time for all of us to remove trash and debris from both on-and off-post facilities, to include all government and government leased housing areas.



Both Col. Sorenson and I appreciate the effort that has been put forward and hope to see new standards in cleanliness throughout the garrison. On Saturday, the garrison youth participating in the

chapel's Club Beyond program will exemplify how every member of this garrison should take responsibility by policing the Post Exchange and Commissary area. These young members of our community will volunteer their time to improve the installation - KUDOS to each and every one of them.

I would also like to say a special thank you to our military spouses, the Army's silent heroes, who offer support to their Soldier and this garrison every day. The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their families, and the military spouse is the pillar of that strength. Their dedication to their Soldier through numerous moves and deployments helps to make the Army an effective and efficient fighting force. Their sacrifices are great and are greatly appreciated.

Join the Grafenwoehr Library Friday as they honor spouses with "Busting Down the Gates," an instructive program that helps military spouses in Germany adapt and overcome the challenges of living overseas.

This week, along with Military Spouse Appreciation Day Friday, is Teacher Appreciation Week. This week is dedicated to honor all of the hard work and dedication that teachers give to our students every day of the school year. Our teachers spend countless hours before and after school planning, researching and practicing to provide a memorable academic experience for our students.

There are many ways you can recognize your student's teachers this week; cards, apples, flowers, but above all, take a moment to say

thank you for their dedication and concern for your student's education.

The month of May also brings with it a celebration of diversity as Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The first ten days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869.

In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration.

Join the garrison May 16 in celebrating Asian Pacific

Heritage Month. Check the weekly community newsletter and the garrison Web site, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil for more information.

In closing, I encourage everyone to make a trip to the German-American Volksfest being held this weekend in Vilseck.

This event highlights the bond between our American military families and the host-nation community. The fest begins Friday at 4 p.m. and runs through 7 p.m., Monday.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berrios
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Commentary: Take pictures, keep positive during life's changes in the military



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

Picture me in a huge white bathtub plopped right under an enormous window. On sunny Sunday afternoons, I fill that bad doggy bubbles, open the window and lean back until I can see the hot air balloons cresting Black Mountain. I tend to drink frosty lemonade and wear sunglasses during this activity. Believe me, it is as decadent as it sounds.

And that's why I want a picture of myself loving it - because I'm losing it. We are PCSing in just a few weeks and moving to a house with a much less fabulous bathtub.

Even though there is a lot to love about the new house, I know I'm going to long for this one. I'm not being dramatic or maudlin. I'm

actually being pretty practical. I've moved with my sailor 15 times. I can accurately predict that I'll get to Virginia and miss my herb garden in winter. I'll miss my son's understanding teachers and the 18 baristas at Starbucks I know by name. I'll miss walking the beach at Torrey Pines and the way the California sun falls across my bed every single day.

I'm not looking forward to it, but I am doing it. I just wish there was a way to do it better. That's why I was so intrigued this week when I caught a snippet of an article about seeking change in your life. The author suggested that one good way to initiate change is to take 50 pictures in a week. The author swore that this would increase your happiness by making you look at familiar things with a fresh and discerning eye.

I read that and thought that when a change was forced upon you, this was a pretty good activity, too. Whether it is a move like mine or one of these newer, "shorter" 12-month deployments, mindfully taking pictures of the things you are losing is a good idea.

Now I'm not envisioning a catalogue of which stores line your local strip mall or a

pathetic collection of big-eyed children on velvet. I'm not thinking of inflicting guilt by digital photo. Instead, I'm using this project to take pictures of all the things that have made our lives here so good.

My photos include some pretty weird stuff. My pantry with exactly the right spot to put batteries and silver candlesticks. My 14-year-old walking down the block with his friends and me NOT driving them. The rose bush on the corner that grows red roses so huge you could wear them as hats.

It's an activity that makes me happier because it makes me notice all that I have. It is an activity that makes me happier because it somehow makes me think that I am keeping these things just by capturing them on a camera.

The more pictures I take, the more I think I should have done this before my husband's deployments.

I had pictures of him smiling and dressed up and ready to go out. I didn't know I could have taken pictures of him mowing the lawn or coming home from work at the end of the day. I should have captured the way that tin of tobacco makes a circular sag in his jeans. The way the light falls on him as he reads a bedtime story. The slump of his shoulders while he contemplates burgers on the grill.

Pictures have a way of making us step back and see what we have.

They show us what we lose. And somehow they have the magical ability to

assure us that it will be OK. Really, it will be OK to lose things. It will be OK to leave things behind. A stack of photos says that all was well and all is well and all will be well again.

Eckhart is a nationally syndicated columnist with www.CinCHouse.com. You can reach her at jacey87@mac.com.

It's an activity that makes me happier because it makes me notice all I have.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Earth Day events highlight community’s ability to conserve world’s resources, energy

by ANGELICA MEDINA
Special to the Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr celebrated Earth Day on April 22 with an event outside the Post Exchange.

The festivities promoted the idea of individual responsibility through various activities such as an electricity and nature quiz and a recyclables sorting game to create community awareness of the impact on the local environment.

At Grafenwoehr Elementary School, second-graders are learning early on to take responsibility and recycle one’s trash.

Teachers Krista Banister, Jaime Hunt, and Dana Olsen, along with Elfriede Kean, the host nation teacher for the school, have actively engaged the students, teaching them to clean up after themselves and place items in the appropriate recycling bins.

“We have been teaching the students how to recycle. We pick up trash around the school and figure out which container they go in. We also read stories about recycling, saw a movie, colored pictures of flowers and made brown bags,” Banister said.

While much emphasis has been placed on recycling, some feel not enough attention has been granted to other areas of conservation such as energy use.

Aref Arianta, the garrison energy manager, said, “We have been doing a lot of recycling, but energy (conservation awareness) has been lagging behind.”

Arianta is doing all he can to promote ways to conserve electricity.

Through the electricity quiz offered at the festival, participants learned how the price for electricity on post fluctuates whether it is being used on a weekday or weekend, or night or



Photo by Andy Bailey

Grafenwoehr Elementary School students learn how to protect the environment and save energy during Earth Day activities April 22.

day.

In order to save energy and reduce cost for the garrison, Arianta suggests residents, “use their major appliances at night. Washers use a lot of energy,” he said.

Arianta also suggested keeping windows closed while heaters are on.

“I have told those living in the barracks that in order to properly ventilate your quarters, you

only need to open the window for 10 minutes. After that, close it. The room will be aired out and it is more efficient that way,” he added.

Those residing in government-leased housing and private rental housing need to exercise common sense when it comes to electricity use because the electricity rate does not differentiate like it does for on post.

In this case, Arianta suggests residents look

at their use of energy, and consider whether it is wasteful.

“Turning off lights when not in use, keeping windows closed, and not leaving TVs on all day can reduce energy consumption,” he said.

Even though government-leased housing residents do not have to pay for their electricity, conserving helps save money for the garrison to use on other, more beneficial projects for the community, Arianta stated.

It is often not a coincidence that what is good for the environment can also save money.

One way community members can and have taken the initiative to reduce their impact on the environment is to complete an Interactive Customer Evaluation.

“The Army is always looking for ways to implement energy and cost savings methods,” said Melynda Weaver, the customer service officer for the garrison. She also added, “Our community members are very concerned about becoming an environmentally friendly Army.”

Some suggestions made by members of the garrison completing ICE surveys included ways to go green that also save money.

The Department of Defense takes into serious consideration any suggestion made and decides the feasibility of executing them.

“If the community completes the survey and offers suggestions, it’s more likely to be implemented then coming from the commander,” Weaver said.

“Because of community feedback, the garrison is implementing actual suggestions made by members of the garrison deemed reasonable enough to put into action,” she continued.

For more on the implementation of community members’ energy saving ideas, pick up the May 20 issue of the Bavarian News.

‘Bavarian Family Day’ takes place May 17

by SUSANNE BARTSCH
USAG Grafenwoer Public Affairs

The first German-American basketball get-together and family day will take place on May 17 from noon to 6 p.m. in the Mehrzweckhalle sports auditorium in Weiden to celebrate and foster German-American friendship and the garrison’s partnership with the City of Weiden.

Doors will open at noon.

At 1 p.m., Weiden’s Lord Mayor Kurt Seggewiß and Col. Nils C. Sorenson, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr commander, along with the Vilseck High School Band and cheerleaders, the Weiden City Band and the Vilseck High School’s JROTC Color Guard will officially open the event and start the day’s basketball tournament featuring German and American teams.

Following is an overview of the day’s events:

- 1:30-2 p.m. - Boy’s basketball game (players age 14 and younger)
- 2-2:30 p.m. - Field Game Competition (Vilseck High School and Kepler High School)
- 2:30-3 p.m. - Ladies basketball game
- 3-3:30 p.m. - Dodgeball Competition (Vilseck High School and Kepler High School)
- 3:30-4 p.m. - Youth basketball game (players age 16 and younger)
- 4-4:30 p.m. - Performance by the Vilseck High School Cheerleaders, The Kepler High School Multicultural Club and Dancers
- 4:30-5 p.m. - Seniors’ basketball game with a shoot out during halftime
- 5:30 p.m. - Presentation of the awards and the Bavarian Family Day Sports Trophy to the winning team

During all breaks, the German King Size Youngsters Big Band will entertain the audience. Traditional German food and refreshments will be sold at the event. The Weiden Mehrzweckhalle is located at Am langen Steg 17, 92736 Weiden.

Wolf pack mourns the loss of a brother

Story and photo by
Spc. JERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of Hawk Company, 3rd Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment gathered alongside their fellow Dragoons and Vilseck community members at the Vilseck Chapel April 24 to pay tribute to and celebrate the life of a noncommissioned officer who was most described as a dedicated team player.

Sgt. William Patrick Sullivan II died April 22 from acute respiratory symptoms, stemming from an illness he had been battling since March.

Sullivan was born June 15, 1985 in Oceanside, Ca.

He is survived by his mother Yolanda and father Joseph T. Sullivan, a former Marine.

“Sgt. Sullivan was a model Soldier,” said 1st Lt. Ryan Tallant, 2nd Platoon Leader.

“He was the kind of Soldier every leader dreams about because he only made you better.”

“Letting down the team was not something Pat did, not ever” said Lt. Col. Bryan Denny, 3rd Squadron Commander.

“The U.S. Army will be at a loss for not having Sgt. Sullivan in its ranks,”

Denny continued.

“The Wolf Pack family has lost a friend and a brother.”

“Sully” as he was nicknamed by his friends, was a man whose generally positive nature infected the lives of all those he came into contact with.

To his friends, Sully was a guy it was tough to stay mad at.

“Most people know that Sully was sometimes a little slow at getting ready and normally that would freak everyone out,” said Spc. Brandon Galouch, a close friend

“But when he finally showed up, with his big smile on his face, all the anger was gone in a second.”

Sullivan entered the military on Aug. 17, 2004, as an Infantryman and attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

He served as a SAW Gunner while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004.

He arrived at 2SCR on August 10th 2007 and deployed with the unit to Iraq in 2008.

Cards and photos adorns the altar at Rose Barracks Church April 24 in Vilseck as family and friends celebrate the life of Sgt. William Patrick Sullivan II.



Officials warn common vehicle modifications are prohibited

by ROBERT SZOSTEK
USAREUR OPM Public Affairs

Members of the U.S. forces community who register vehicles in Germany should be aware of laws regarding modifications such as window tinting and wheel spinners, say U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials.

Don’t add tinted foils to the front windshield or front driver and passenger door windows of your vehicles, officials warn, because this so-called after-market tinting is not allowed in Germany. Replacing plain front windows with tinted panes is also prohibited.

This policy was restored in 2006 after the agreement with Germany on the use of German license plates was concluded, OPM officials explained,

adding that Germany does not have any exceptions for tinting these windows.

“Our vehicle inspectors see this time after time,” said Dan Saavedra, policy advisor at the USAREUR Vehicle Registry. “Unfortunately, vehicle owners have to remove foils, whether they are tinted or not, from the windshield or the driver and front passenger side windows before their vehicle can pass inspection.”

However, tinting that is a factory-manufactured part of the window is good to go for all windows if it is original configuration for the vehicle, officials said. All vehicles made in the United States or with U.S. specifications conform to German and U.S. legal requirements.

Tinted foils on the rear windows of a vehicle are authorized and not a

problem for owners.

OPM officials said their goal is to get vehicle owners to meet the requirement by voluntary compliance with the law.

Saavedra pointed out that the U.S. forces in Germany signed an agreement with the German government in 2006 on the use of German license plates as a force protection measure. About 75 percent of USAREUR-plated privately owned vehicles have the German plates now, he added.

“This is good for us because it makes American POVs blend in with the German and other European cars on the road that much more,” Saavedra explained.

He went on to say that German police may stop vehicles that have tinted front windows, especially if the vehicle bears the new German license

plates. Saavedra said in Germany it is also illegal to cover a license plate with any kind of tinted or clear glass, foil or similar materials. The fine for this offense is 50 Euro.

Wheel spinners -- wheel covers or hub caps that spin even if the wheel comes to rest -- are also not legal in Germany because of safety concerns. Lights in a vehicle’s wheel wells or grill are banned as well.

He also stated that the maximum noise level for exhaust systems on all cars, vans and motorcycles is 95 decibels, with no variance allowed. Vehicle inspection points can measure a vehicle’s noise level to ensure it is in compliance.

Saavedra advised vehicle owners to call the registry’s customer service office at 386-7280 or 0621-718-7280 to find out more.

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Students



Grafenwoehr Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Courtney Beilhart Diana Barta Haley Connell Carlos Franco Sophia Hager	Myrah Hernandez-Mace Megan Howard Greyson Lerner Ryan Martin Nicole Ogborn Patrick Ramirez	Joel Romero Sven Schnare Caroline Toth “A-B” Honor Roll Julian Burnham Jacob Butler Madison Carroll	Yazmin Chavez Tyler Cooper Jaylen Dawn Sydney Fenn Zachary Fenn Joshua Frenette Darron House	Enrico IrizarryManig Jasmine Jimenez Gerald Managuit Ki-me’ McElroy Catherine McNeill Rylee Minton Janio Moreno	Leandra Mulla Chandler Nye Trey Pruitt Ryan Randle Jordan Reese Kyle Roberts Erika Schneider	Braden Scott Gabriela Shimkus Jennifer Shimkus Morrice Smith De’Von Traylor Abigail Villanueva
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Vilseck Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Justin Baker Armando Barkley Jack Boyle Jaylen Garland Tierra Mendoza Emily Mock Heaven Moten Tessamari Novak Autumn Siebold Ashna Singh	Shaliyah Smith Carlos Valarezo Patrick Barnett Tiffany Belcher Elizabeth Butscher Riley Campbell Margaret Clearwater Elisabeth Davis Darica Hayes Benjamin Jones Brandon Massie Joshua Neely	Sarah Read William Stewart “A-B” Honor Roll Candyce Addison Nicholas Brooks Chloe Clifton Dominique Dillahunty Kathy Frans Hayden Kasavicha Jahnnny Pomares Alex Rodriguez Benjamin Rote	Carlos Vasquez John Villar Joseph Whyte Veronica Davis Michael Dougherty Jenina Flores Rebekah Haas Tiffany Hendricks Madison Hoecker Tamaria Jackson Kenzyl Jones Chanita Kirmanidou	Christopher Lancaster Nautiq Moten Michael Moya Samantha Purganan Victor Sanchez Sierra Siebold Marc Anthony Signorello Shanea Smith Savannah Anys Kyera Black Danielle Blangger Jordan Chambers	Derek Davis Therese Du Taylor Gilman Zachary Graves Katie Mayou Crystal Morris Malik Price Emma Self Kendra Mitchell Smith Kaitlin Wood Karen Beberniss Hailey Davis	Hope Davis Jeremy Diamond Kyle Kramer Yasmine Perez Elijah Porter Edward Powers Andrew Reineke Jaci Reynolds Komal Singh Justin Travis Femi Whitehead
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Netzaburg Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Kinoa Dulce Meigan Girard Ethan Reibsome Samantha Parrish Ken Rassavong Tyler Bowser Taylor Butcher Joshua Delgrego Erykah Ffrench Keara Hamer Kimbrea Hollingsworth John Michael Lopez Madysen Meyer	Jaihde Williams Alyssa Dunivent Gunner Key Alex Finney “A-B” Honor Roll Mikayla Davis Yazmine Hassan Jacob Marshall Gabriela martinez Syeanna Pedroza Joshua Pera Jackson Philbin Destiny Russell De’Shawn Smith Indira Velazquez	Lymari Feliu-Ortega Stephen Bartlebaugh Disney Cain Rachel Campbell Brianna Woodson Ciara Alston Spencer Andrus Paden Clark Jacob Nebroski Jacob Nebroski Mikayla Vigue Devyn Driscoll Tamara Hewett DeAuna Jones Michaela Lewis Dakota Lopez	Rylie Merryman Lars Peterson Kyan Royster Brandon Schoonover Malik Etheredge Julia Foslin Chris Gorman Caleb Hammond Nadeen Hassan Kayleigh Saal Christopher San Nicholas Jared Snell Tera Young Katelyn Daniels Phillipp Orbe	Faith Paul Faith Kloth Albert Leauti Janeya Marion Junior McNickles Jermaine Hernandez Nathan Wilson Caleb Kemple Cynthia Muniz Alexander Crispin Milla George Sadira Hayes Greyson Key Jennifer Maxwell Taelur Morgan	Nijel Rawlins Jadeen Rivera Travis Scharninghausen Kevin Spillman Alanis Vargas Blake Worrell Alec Argueta Rebecca Haney Sierra Hardy Kathryn Korte Kirstyn Korte Hugo Rucobo Aryana Ybay Mckenzie Alexander Gillian Becraft	Laura Jones Tyler Floyd Xavier Calip Nathan Mosely Adam Proctor Christopher Ross Tiana Valencia Charles Williams Mckenzie Alexander Kenneth Bogawitch Joshua Clamage Matthew Duenas Dakotah Hall Jasmin Hazelet
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Netzaberg Middle School

“A” Honor Roll Samantha Bidingier Everett Clark Jade Clark Nathan Corder Samantha Elane Cecilia Fodor Rachel Gabavics Branda Guzman Brent Hoffman Uriah Huffman Monteindre Huggins Nievjohn Ignaco Paul Mako Anthony Maynard Kaitlyn Mendum Laura Octavo Madeline Olden Ryan Riegel Robert Root William Rosalino Ismarie Rosario Wunderly Rote Briana Scott Megan Shimkus Shanice Smith	Alexandra Soika Paola Suarez Reyna Towns Mahpiya Vanderbilt Ulani Villanueva Breanne Vogelpohl Sereniti Woodford Tyreque Young Vanessa Banister Nicholas Baxter Sarah Cavazos Hannah Collins Jessica Corder Candice Cudjoe Kiera Huil Stephanie Jessop Leilani Manera Emily Manzo Katherine Mason Aysha Mays Ana Merel Rebecca Neely Benjamin Nelson Michael Nelson William Nguyen Kristine Peterson	Caitlin Rabuck Phillip Ramirez Jacquelyn Riegel Vivian Tanner Taylor Watson Yessenia Barkley Alexis Mitchell-Dugan Maximillian Philbin Carolyn Pippin Angelica Rago Sarah Schaffer Alexandria Strube Stephen Tilzey “A-B” Honor Roll Kemo Allen Jamie Bartow Alicia Batten Zaria Boyd Tiernan Callaghan-McCann Georgina Cano Hannah Chavez Nia Cohen Nico Conrad Latrece Cunningham Dakota Curry Dominic Davidson	Marlon Delgado-Lopez Ronald Diaz Javier Gallardo Jonathan Guevarez Jamie Haas Sarah Hall Rachel Hocker Kayla Holland Cherrish Ignacio Zachary Kennedy Ingrid Kenan Michaela Lechwar Gabriel Lewis Molly Maine Michael Marchese Ariel McIntire Faith Miller Meycelle Miller Amira Murry Robert Ogborn Miah Purganan Trey Reese Benedikt Reynolds Brooke Rowe Jana Schmidt Ian Schwartz Julia Scroggins	Ian Seitz Andrew Toohey Nolan Tucker Leah Vasquez Mikaela Watrus David Wright Jordan Akalaonu Heather Allen Nadia Almomory Caitlin Barry Zachary Becraft Michael Briskin Broderick Bruner Jeramie Bryan Ciara Centamore Kayla Clamage Christopher Curry Thomas Diaz Victoria Duckles Jeremiah Ferguson Devin Florendo Jesse Hall Taylor Hendricks Kevin Ingles Samuel Jones Abdul Kamara Alischa Kelly	Jessica Koroma Noah Kraemer Nicholas Lawrence Ashley LeBel Elizabeth Malec Jocelyne Meza Olivia Owens Steven Pedroza Jaiden Pharris Zaroxolyn-Chloe Pomele Meraleigh Randle Mincy Rodriguez Ashley Ross Sheynilmarie Ruiz Dennis Ryner Florian Sovine Haylie Steffe Shelby Stewart Andrew Touzinsky LeBrittany Triplett Sydney Velez Zarah Webster Ty Wrolson Vivian Zavala Tyler Boothe Chiara Coleman	Michaela Callaghan-McCann Lindsey Comer Jared Cooper Christopher Cormier Ryan Corrigan Anna Duenas Quinton Edwards Kyle Florance Amber Holland Shralondra Howard Katharina Neuser Michelle Ragay Nathaniel Reline-Martin Daniel Reynolds Taylor Robinson Rosemarie Rodriguez Tylor Russell Elizabeth Self Maria Shimkus Sharon Smith Kiana Vertz Danielle Villali Benjamin Villalon Courtney Wills Delia Wilson
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Vilseck High School

“A” Honor Roll Terri Atwater Katharine Cooper Aaron Hogg Amy Maitner Jacob Martin Michael Naterlin Jared Russell Belinda Spirity Shania Hargis Alexandria Mills Maxianne Villalon Darrius Whitehead Emma Andrews Darren Eldredge John Lee Tyler Hall Jessica Kay Andrew Feazelle Bryan Hogg Brandon Pettitt Angela Prater John Reynolds Erik Bidingier Yasmin Cofer Anne Goho JannicaLouise Gueco Angela Blevins	Mary Shoup Michael L. Diaz Shane Calder Tamaria Hollis Jessica Rider “A-B” Honor Roll Jermaine Barkley Chelsey Burger Kyle Stahr John Wood Tracey South Andrew Baxter Georgianna Castro Megan Moore Gabriel Ruiz Ryan Solis Gavrielle Whyte Darre’Auna Lyde Lauren McClafflin Marissa Rago Lisa-Marie Roberts Jessica Crusing Victoria Murchison Stefanie Powers Dylen Raastad Damon Watson Gabor Barta Zachary Cooper	Timothy Crussing Alisha Davidson Jacquelyn Fassett Uriel Lee Rebekah Prater Rayshan Clark Taylor Graves Christian Leming Dmitri Walker Leah Watson Tyler Cepeda Dwane Imber Salinata Kamara Tiarah Kay Ashley Lavallais-Hocker Gibran Rivera Sarah Utke Megan White Brittany Conley Jacqueline Cormier Ashlia Hendricks Christy Manoogian Rebecca McNeill Christopher Nelson Christine Rodriguez Aaron Ware Kimberly Akuna Shawn Calder	Sarah Carriker Jimmy Nguyen Karina Touzinsky Theresa Trevino Nayhomi Rodriguez Nancy Castro Sarah Douglas Michelle Green India Johnson Roberto Miranda Dany Quitano Danica Schobin Erin Toohey Tekeha Turner Coger I’Mario Gibson Michelle Hernandez Coleen Kiechler Dominic Lonowski Xavier Scott Samantha Marshall Meredith Nance Mary Beth Allen Averi Baker Crystal Belcher Kayla Cook Althea Dunn LaTanya Greene Marcus Heikkinen	Josie Rodriguez-Argueta Jeremy Ryan BriAnn Smith Nancy Hendrix Phadre Hocker Meighan Johnson Daniel Williams Anna Muzzy Kaitland Taylor Patricia Johnson Danielle Jones James McCall Marissa Miller Kevin Moore Kyle Octavo Gabriela Orta Rachell Witt Leah Beilhart Samantha Johnston Alyssa Massie Bianca Selders Maximillian Neuser Leonard Rodriguez Lauren Carroll Dominique Smith Shanice Cunningham Daniel Dailo Victoria Kander	Dominik Lomonaco Rochelle Shadegg Kevin Waters David Wood Benicia Salas Dylan Driscoll Sahina Gowin Jordan Lebouef Kerwin Octavo Benita Ewin Amanda Zumwalt Toni Anderson Nikki Ignacco Kyle Krajcovic Ramon Ortiz Virgilia Tanner Samuel Ross Lucas Gutierrez Jamal Grant William Hargis Ericka Mark John McGaffin Adriane Paminiano Jason Roberts Sebastian Schnare Tiffany Thomas Darcey Woodall Jamie Corbin Patrick Akuna	Angelo Anderson Gregory Daniels Myah Shamlee Christian Swann Brittany Tener Colt Edwards Christopher Brown Fabien Niedermeier Qartney Cohen Stephanie Guzman Shniece Ross Kevin Taylor Nadia Kastner Joshua Keith Yvette Ybay Courtney Corder Shamyra Coleman Alizabeth Sullenger Aaron Jackson Phillip Manning Jennifer Agee Allyson Barnett Gabriel Welch Caitlyn Burger Jason Chun Eric Hickman Stephanie Hood Kimberly Morris Bartley Schwegler
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3rd Quarter Honor Roll Students

Garmisch Elementary/Middle School

“A” Honor Roll Alexander Cavoli Angelina Moten	Nathaniel Sattler Chloe Scheel Michael Beans	James Adaryukov Mark Brown Tess Chaffin	“A-B” Honor Roll Daniel Lonkhurst Frances Rhodes Nico Staples	Maria Steinke Samuel Turner Linley Brown Kaleigh Byrne	Tess Laub Matthew Turner Julia Jurczyk Mary Dwigans	Nicole Ney Khalil Simon Chantel Wynn
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Schweinfurt Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Patricia Cook Isaiah DeBorja Benjamin Finch Faith Flynn Kamylla Heinbaugh Mia Johnson-Gonzalez Nicholas Kennaugh Steven Kukowski Joslyn Medina	Sandrina Murphy Katelyn O’Rourke Katelyn Palmer Nickolas Schulz Hannah Baker Justin Bulanadi Geoffrey Hite Vannessa Jackson Sharon Kim Oliver Lupa	Aolani Mayo Mariana Mesa Heather Miska Johan Rau Ty Spencer Morgan Stockdill Celene Sweeney Alexandrea Whitmore “A-B” Honor Roll Christian Hayes Declan Hurley	Godson Ike Brea James Jabari London Jendayi London John McDaniel Vicente Mendiola Justice Newsome Rashad Rogers Tabatha Salcedo Jesse Sharpe Amber Shell	Orlando Tagaloguin Clajanique Thames Joyce Vizcarrondo Matthew Woodall Jahmal Boozer Teresa Burns Anna Maria Ceballos Nyla Cooper-Gittens Jada Daley Quan Dasalla Axel Delgado	Donavan DeLoach Austen Evans Michelle Furkin Isabelle Guevara Aleeya Harris Marissa Ixtlahuac Angelique Kenny Molly Kintner Jeremy Kukowski Katya Lewis Melissa Mella	Sarah Naillon Michelle Quinteros Morgen Shreve Ethan Stemmerding Pedro Ventura Alexandra Villanueva Victoria Weaver Alicia West Kasey West Frederick Wheeler
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Schweinfurt Middle School

“A” Honor Roll Rowen Alexander Tymon Blow John Gray Alyssa Isom Ashley Hendrix Cennet Huggins	Justin Kennaugh Cheyenne Proctor Samantha J. Gray Abigail Bernardino Danay Davis Michael Johnson - Gonzalez Robert Miska	Trent Mitchell Devin Pieciak Jonathan Romine Logan Street Christine Cook Rachel Fellingner Alexis Ruiz Elaine Tagaloguin	Erin Bolinger Kiersten Cade Miguel Guevara Alison Sprosty “A-B” Honor Roll Victoria Gilman Anissa Holland Vincent Houston	Lina Ike Jesse Timmons Frednesha Baird Khayree Files Kayla Hedman Cecilie Huettner Seamus Hurley Devin Propst	Alice Rivera Torres Ian Swankhouse Beau Timmons Omar Torres Trevor Wright Ahmad AliNur Malik Boozer Erika Davis	Janica Ecleo T’Erra Felder Kimberlee Holness Frances Negron-Miranda Lisa Stevens Jonathan Williams Lucienne Woods
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Illesheim Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Samuel Wiest Zuhura Semrau	Yasmin Johnson Bryan Schmidt Claire Torza	Vakeaemanu Hunkin Yarielys Roldan-Ramos	“A-B” Honor Roll Aryana Kaleher Jermaine Holley Justin Learn	L. Hunkin Austin Cate Jaqueline Ripley Kyle Landers	Teresa Montalvo Trevor Christensen Yazmin Caraballo Alexis Duncan	Kayla Hilliard L. Hunkin, Jr. Miguel Santiago Christopher Schlangen
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Ansbach Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Lashana Delduarte Ava Greene Nicholas Abel Naomi Liriano Paloma Sanchez Tyra Cleveland	Hayla Corzine Ellen Hoff John Mahlkuch Jacob Lindgren Brittany Moore “A-B” Honor Roll Jrdyn Bradley	Tristan Brown Bailey Callahan Claire Farrell Malik Heard Francheska Honsvick Megan McEwan Tehvance Tuialuuluu	Hunter Vidro Kendra Beary Siul Figueroa Chrismin Glaviano Rubeck Gonzalez Russell Langham Brian McEwan	Edith Rosas Coo Chee Coo DelaCruz Zachary Dignan Xavier Enriquez Rayann Fernandez Luis Figueroa Laudina Gwira	Aidan Hildebrand Brian Kylman Elisa Nagle Kohl Wright Reanna Clavon Daniel Cordoba Gavin Cruz	Emily Hoff Crystal Lopez Eileen Majka Francesca Monsisvais Clarissa Paniagua Rikky Tuialuuluu
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Rainbow Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Tanner Loper Jennifer Mitchell Olivia Amos Leia Bright Traylor Marquis Michael Zero	Dominic Dillingham Conner Erickson Camille Martin “A-B” Honor Roll John Bowen Caleb Chandler Michael Conner	Sofia Domingono Hayden Langewishch Cory Mathews Kyesha Austin Kristina Bone Dallas Botchway Ashlyn Farwell Samantha Hamontree	Ashya Holland Darryus Lowe Timothy Beury Camille Boodoosingh Elizabeth Herring Bryanna Mathews Mary McKinney Katie Sardella	Joslynn Herbella Robbie Swint Micah Traylor Caesar Villaluz Baylee Croke Christian DelaCruz Patrick Gutteridge Mason Lammers	Andres Mayorga James Cusic Nicole LaCrosse Chandler Lowrey Annie Macklin Bryanna Tyre Samantha Dowdy	Trey Schreurs Mikael Britt Michael Duncan Tiara Dyson Alec Schreurs Pervaiz Wignarajah
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Hohenfels Elementary School

“A” Honor Roll Amber Aber Dustin Anderson Eliana Bara Lisa Bourgeois Kevin Brazie Kaitlyn Brink Aaron Burlingame Morgan Cardon Melissa Clarke Michael Devin Jessica Einwaechter Charles Gozy Sean Harris	Katherine Hensley Isabelle Hoecherl Tatjana Jarvis Kacey Joyner Rachel Lange Nicholas Mann Jordan Markham Anderson Peguero Derek Ray Paul Roberts Ian Rodman Alyssa Taylor Megan Taylor Nathan Way	“A-B” Honor Roll Zoe Abner Michael Adgie Virginia Barr Liza Bermudez Jared Bernal Lauren Borg Brianna Brennan Hannah Brewster Jailene Chancey Courtney Cochran Codey Coon Samuel Deleon Indigo Dominguez	Gregory Eaddy Cory Earnest Robert Evans Jacob Fisher Joshua Fisher Lauren Fisher Jamison Golson Charles Griscom William Hammer Quinton Harper Ta’von Horton Aubrey Howell Yvonne Humphreys Delaney Keeler Aidan Kerchner	Alexander Lange Talia Lassiter Zachary Lefebvre Brianna Love Elijah Mada Tanner Marsh Josiah Martinez-Davis Jessey McBride Lane McMullen Lexi Nunn Marcell Oliver Noemi Orozco Jonathan Ortiz Chaz Perryman Alexandra Preysler	Christopher Ramos Rachael Rausch Mya Reevey Charlotte Richter Luke Robinson Bradley Sain Maximilian Sammler James Schafer Gage Scott Maya Smith Uriah Soliz Caleb Stiefel Savannah Tackaberry Elnatan Teklu Sarah Toppin	Ashley Tuitt Tanja Vass John Warren Virginia Warren Christopher Welch Jack Wells Matthew Wells Chantell Williams Devon Williams Latisha Williams Loren Winge Nathan Witty Pauline Woods Alexis Wright Elizabeth Wright
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Hohenfels Middle/High School

Ralph Williams Stephen Welch Emerlyn Rivera Erin Redden Hunter Massey Lukas Heath Charlotte Hammer Caroline Bourgeois Mary Adgie Stephanie Fernandez Anna Volk Loraine Roberts Allison Moczynski Keyera Howard Burgandy Hotz Selina Chestnut	Julian Byles Jeremy Bormann Kristin Stribbling Lukas Sammler Shaina Ruiz Alexis Perryman Anthony Johnson Katarina Harp Kaylee-Noel Brennan Charles Preysler Lauren Powell Genesis Laboy Bryce Hysom Ashleigh Glynn Angelyn Fryer Laquishia Wright	Zachary Wood Katelyn Turgeon Emmanuel Soliz Ileara Serrano Stephen Schafer Tashia Golson Madison Burke Robert Ryan Stephanie Larumbe Alicia Moczynski Courtney Borg Chauncey Eaddy Angela Reinick Rene Bourgeois Kelsey Cochran Darian Eldred	Alissa Grantham Lana Hollis Kimberly Howard Casey Leon Victoria Nelson Kayla Rausch Meggie Rodman Jacqueline Stone Nina Wollersberger Eric Wollersberger Jazmine Calhoun Bryce Cooper John Leon Ovidiu Martin Johnnie Mesch Heaven Sanders	Samantha Smith Jane Weber Justin Battley Xavier Davis Loisann DeLass Natascha Fluker Patrick Humphreys Frank Karafa Emily Mittag Julia Nwoga Vanessa Wells Emily Adams Rachel Borg Sabrina Collins Joshua Cooper Michael Dongus	Jamilah Lambert Mandy LaVnaway Max Maupin Sarai Orozco Christine Reyes James Robinson Ann Marie Schafer Katherine Seigel Ian Sellers Kayla Starnes Eric Van Fleet Jessica Walloch John Aber Melissa Caples Sarah DeLass Corey Ezra	Aaron Helbling Shaniece Ruiz David Streets Lacy Wells Timothy Salerno
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Personal stories, recollections, tours make ‘Days of Remembrance’ days to remember

Story and photo by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

Recalling the Holocaust is an important and somber annual event and this year’s commemoration offered three days of garrison activities for members of the community.

“The Holocaust demonstrates the danger of apathy, of being silent while others are oppressed,” said Freddy Osorio, garrison Equal Employment Opportunity officer.

“We all had a busy week, so the Ethnic Observance Committee decided on various events to memorialize and remember those who were lost during those dark days.”

The week began April 20 with opening comments at the chapel by garrison manager Karin H. Santos, followed by a prayer by Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Pundt. Pundt’s brief and unscripted words spoke to the meaning of the commemoration.

“We do this as a garrison not to just check the box; we do this so that we never forget,” said Pundt.

The next morning the movie “Into the Arms of Strangers” was shown at the Pete Burke Community Center, followed that evening by a lecture on Dachau in the small plenary building at the George C. Marshall Center.

A day trip April 23 to a restored synagogue in Augsburg-Swabia began with a stop at KZ-Friedhöfen, one of the many smaller concentration camps near Landsberg.

These smaller camps can be found by a small sign indicating a “KZ” followed by a location name, and are easily missed if one doesn’t know to look for them.

The tour of the Jewish Cultural Museum was conducted by guide Markus Seemann, his second such tour in English.

“Most of the synagogues around here were burned down on Krystalnacht in 1938,” Seemann said, indicating old photos of damage done when the Augsburg synagogue was set ablaze.

“The fire brigade put this one out before it could threaten the buildings around it. This is one of the few surviving synagogues from that time,” Seemann added.

Later he escorted the group into the main room, now fully restored and with a higher membership of worshipers than before the war.

A short walk from the museum, a traveling exhibit of rail cars and a restored and working century-old Romanian steam engine used to deport Jewish children was parked for the week on Gleis 2 at the Augsburg Hauptbahnhof.

Several linked cars with displays were packed with curious travelers, German schoolchildren and groups like the one from Garmisch.

Later the group returned to Landsberg to meet Manfred Deiler, a local citizen who for the past 25 years has worked with a group creating a memorial at the site of KZ-Kommando Kaufering VII, a place that used slave labor shipped from Auschwitz to work on fighter planes.

This is the same camp discovered in 1945 by Easy Company, 101st Airborne, as dramatized in the “Band of Brothers” series.

According to Deiler, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg visited the site in preparation for the program. The footage used in that episode was actually a recreation built in England.

Deiler, accompanied by Anton Posset, a retired high school teacher dedicated to the memory those who perished in his home town, took the group into the back of the camp area; a surviving building, a low arched structure resembling an Army Quonset Hut made of bricks and a curious terracotta bottle-shaped roofing material, was used to house female prisoners.

Inside were banners representing the many different nationalities of the victims and flowers left by individuals and governments. Two rows of items found in the hut were displayed along the sides, things such as discarded shoes, bottles, cooking utensils, and other personal items.

“Landsberg was one of the three important cities during the time of National Socialism,” said Deiler.

“There was Berlin, Munich and Landsberg, where Hitler was imprisoned and wrote Mein Kampf.”

As the sun set and a chill took in the quiet forest, Deiler and Posset told the group about freezing roll calls that lasted for hours of naked prisoners in knee-deep snow.

“There was so much information to be absorbed Thursday that it didn’t really resonate with me on any sort of emotional level until we arrived back home and I thought about standing in the underground bunker,” said Jessica Roberson, Garmisch Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“Manfred told the story about the baby being born there on Christmas Day and both mother and child being killed because that disqualified her from being fit to work,” said Roberson.

Dieler invited a member of the group to return the following Sunday to read a letter from a former Soldier of the 12th Armored “Hellcat” Division and Roberson accepted, returning to Landsberg on the 26th.

“Afterwards Herr Deiler took me to the Landsberg prison where Hitler wrote “Mein Kampf” and we also explored the cemetery there where SS officers who were convicted of war crimes were buried after being executed,” said Roberson.

“All of those graves are unmarked so it



Garmisch community members inspect a bunker at concentration camp Kommando Kaufering VII, once used to house Jewish women used as slave laborers for the production of fighter planes, as part of the Days of Remembrance. The camp had a high level of attrition due to harsh conditions, and was discovered 64 years ago by Soldiers of Easy Company, 101st Airborne, as recounted in the Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks production “Band of Brothers.”

doesn’t become a pilgrimage site for neo-Nazis, but he pointed out to me some of the more famous graves and a lot of them have fresh flowers on them. Rudolf Hess’ had a freshly lit candle.”

John Critzas, a tank gunner with A Company of the 714th Tank Battalion, was one of the liberators of the camp on April 27, 1945 and had sent his recollection of that day to Dieler to be read on the 64th anniversary of the liberation.

“On that day (and I will never forget it) we broke through the wall of the Landsberg Prison camp and what we experienced as young men will never leave our memory,” wrote Critzas.

“We pulled in to the camp with our tank “buttoned up” as we call it... and when we saw the situation we of course opened our hatches and took in the surroundings completely dumbfounded by what we saw.

“Literally thousands of bodies stacked like cordwood outside of the furnace crematoriums and all over the place. The starved prisoners immediately crowded around our vehicles and with outstretched hands were begging for food

which we of course gave them until we were instructed by our officers not to do that because our food would literally kill them.”

It was only a matter of hours before a “host of high ranking officers” including generals Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Patch, and British Field Marshal Montgomery descended on the area, recalled Critzas.

Ever in pursuit of the enemy, Gen. Patton ordered the armor to keep moving east while the rear echelon troops would care for the prisoners.

“Obviously this is what we did as elements of our 12th Armored Division proceeded to ‘clean up’ the mess that was discovered and do what they could for the prisoner survivors to nurse them back to health,” wrote Critzas.

While not as many community members participated, the Days of Remembrance commemoration was more gripping and emotional than other Ethnic Observances.

The next Ethnic Observance, Asian-Pacific, will be held May 22 at the Pete Burke Center.

Garmisch children celebrate NCOs

Story and photo by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

To commemorate the Year of the NCO, elementary students of the Garmisch Elementary-Middle School presented an autographed banner to noncommissioned officers from the garrison community April 16.

NCOs from the garrison’s Military Police, the George C. Marshall Center and the NATO School took time out from their busy schedules to visit the school and share ice cream cake with the kindergarten class. The banner was made and signed by students from the upper classes.

“Today we have NCOs from here in Garmisch, and you may know some of them,” said Principal Debbie Strong,

indicating some of the fathers of the participating children.

The principal asked each of the Soldiers to introduce themselves to the students and then moved them all outside for the presentation.

The children enthusiastically responded with a round of applause, and one student went down the line of NCOs to give each of them a high-five before racing outside to unfurl the banner.

Student Laura Clements, deputized as an on-the-spot school reporter and armed with a tape recorder, duly tried to interview fellow 4th graders Alexander McGrail and Madia Almosadder for their reactions to the school visit by the NCOs as her classmates gathered around the schools May Pole, but their words

were drowned out by the excited children. After the photo was taken the kids stormed back to the lunchroom where the ice cream cake was waiting to be sliced.

It took four months to coordinate this tribute to the leader Soldiers of Garmisch following the announcement by the Department of the Army that 2009 would be the Year of the NCO.

Garrison NCOs had already participated in the official U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr commemoration by the time of the school’s recognition, but that didn’t stop Strong and her students.

Strong herself decorated the cake, which was provided by the Defense Commissary store manager Teresa DeJesus, that the NCOs served to the youngest students.



Garmisch Elementary-Middle School students celebrate the garrison’s Noncommissioned officers April 16 with an autographed banner.

Green with honor



Photo by John Reese

Earth Day meets Women’s History Month: Claudine Lee (left) with her daughters Anne and Justina and Cristina Michta help plant a tree at the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch headquarters building April 16.

Lee and Michta, along with seven-year-old Bailey vanBuren (not shown) were honored March 25 at the Women’s History Month observation with a plaque and an Earth Day tree for their voluntary police call on the National Day of Service in January.

Leadership thanks volunteers for nearly \$3 million dollars in service

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Hohenfels community members volunteered 140,000 hours of their time in 2008, an amount Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels commander, pointed out is the yearly equivalent of every employee in building 1.

Bloomberg and leaders from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, the Joint Multinational Training Command, USAG Grafenwoehr and Installation Management Command-Europe thanked volunteers during the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 22 at the Community Activities Center.

The one in six people at Hohenfels that volunteer at organizations throughout post saved the community more than \$2.7 million in 2008 alone.

“Volunteers are critical to what we do here,” Bloomberg said.

“If you don’t believe me, go down to the SAS (School Age Services) field tonight and watch a kid’s face as he rounds first base. Volunteers make that program run. Go down to MPD (Military Personnel Division in Bldg. 10), the spouse that greets you is a volunteer, not a civilian employee. We owe our volunteers a debt of gratitude we can never repay,” he added.

Diane Devens, director, IMCOM-E, agreed the ceremony is only a small way for the garrison and IMCOM-E to show their appreciation.

“Today is all about acknowledging people who volunteer and take action for their community. The Army’s appreciation is year-round, not just one day,” Devens said, noting that the 225 volunteers at the ceremony are just a fraction of those who serve in relative obscurity throughout the year.

“I tell people a lot that IMCOM can do anything you want us to do, but we can’t do everything you want us to do. The things we can’t do, volunteers step up and provide,” she said. “You enable us to deliver many critical programs folks here rely on.”

During the program volunteers were presented with scrolls of appreciation for their service.

Each organization could also nominate one youth and one adult for their organizational volunteer of the year.

Individuals donating 500 or more hours and 1000 or more hours of their time were recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Listed are the names of each of the six

Volunteers of the Year, the organizational volunteers of the year, and individuals who volunteered 500 or more hours in 2008.

Volunteers of the Year:

Youth Volunteer of the Year: John Mesch
Civilian Volunteer of the Year: Ben Barker
Active Duty Soldier Volunteer of the Year: Jarrod Gozy

Family Member Volunteer of the Year: Brandy Evans

Volunteer Family of the Year: The Mesch Family

Host Nation Volunteer of the Year: Andreas Kirschenbauer

Organizational Volunteers:

Army Community Service: Kayla Starnes, Laurie Jackson and Angenetta Lambert

Company A, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion: Jason Aldan and Kristen Hayward

Company A, 1st Ballation, 4th Infantry Regiment: Julia Moore

Co. B, 1-4 Inf.: Cristina Trinh

Co. C, 1-4 Inf.: Rebecca Moritz and Corrine Howell

Co. D, 1-4 Inf.: Laura Charles and Caroline Eville

Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 1-4 Inf.: Cecelia Ramos, Corrine Howell, Lisa Fisher and Karissa Borders

Boy Scouts: Yancy Wood and Cyndi Hartfield

Catholic Community: John Scotto

Community Mail Room: Abra Sewonu Evu

Cub Scout Pack 303: Heike Brazie, Mary Wood and Harold Dennis

Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Arts and Crafts Center: Jennifer Batts

FMWR Child Liason, Education and Outreach Services: Verlena Williams

FMWR Teen Center: Johnnie Mesch

FMWR Youth Sports: Jarrod Gozy and Silvia Ringlbauer

FMWR Library: Christal Joyner

FMWR Sports and Fitness: Paul Nwoga

FMWR SAS: Annan Morelli

Religious Support Office Club Beyond: Ben Barker

Elementary School and Parent Teacher Association: Beth Barr

Girl Scouts: Amy and Delaney Keeler

Hohenfels Hurricanes Swim Team: Jennifer Brewster and Meggie Rodman

Joint Multinational Readiness Center Operations Group: Johnnie Shields



Nickayla Myers-Garner, right, shakes hands with Diane Devens, director of Installation Management Command-Europe, during the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 22 at the Community Activities Center. Myers-Garner, who volunteered more than 1000 hours in 2008, was named the organizational volunteer of the year for the Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club.

JMRC Raptor Team: Jennifer Fisher
JMRC Warhogs: Jarrod Gozy
KONTAKT Club: Elizabeth Talarico
527th Military Police Co.: Victoria Stratton and Brandy Evans
Protestant Women of the Chapel: Sandy Angell
Protestant Congregation: Nicole Soliz
Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club: Nickayla Myers-Garner
Volunteers with more than 1000 hours: Jennifer Hammer, Darren Mesch, Rena Mesch, Nickayla Myers-Garner, Carla Nwoga, Lori Starnes and Carol Stone.

Volunteers with more than 500 hours: Jean Adams, Victor Alvarez, Bryan Baggett, Melissa Baggett, Joshua Boaz, Shannon Callis, Katie Coulter, Mark Evans, Mary Fitter, Beth Fitzgerald, Gabriele Frazao, Gwen Gamble, Timothy Gilbert, Dawn Glynn, Jessica Hill, Brian Jackson, Andreas Kirschenbauer, Brandi Kretschmar, Anna Maynard, Matthew Miller, Nicole Miller, Leslie Mittag, Kurt Rager, Kelly Randolph, Sheila Robinson, Heather Scotto, Laurie Jackson, Angenetta Lambert, Karissa Borders, Cyndi Hartfield, John Scotto, Paul Nwoga, Annan Morelli, Ben Barker, Beth Barr, Amy Keeler, Brandy Evans and Nicole Soliz.

‘Days of Remembrance’ guest speaker remembers Holocaust victims, calls for resistance in their name

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

The slide show at the Equal Opportunity-sponsored event April 21 began with the words “Make a choice to resist, to respect, to protect.”

Photos of injured and malnourished

children and adults moved across the screen along with names of places like Occupied Europe, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

The presentation at the Hilltop Chapel Center was in observance of Days of Remembrance, an annual event established by the U.S. Congress to commemorate victims of

the Holocaust.

This year’s theme, “Never Again: What You Do Matters,” was the focus of guest speaker Martin Kurz, a Regensburg psychologist and member of the board of directors of the Regensburg Jewish Community.

He said the true goal of the Nazi designers of the Holocaust was to not only destroy the lives of their Jewish victims, but to also destroy all that makes them human: their past, present and future, their desires and dreams, their relationship to their community and their orientation towards a larger meaning.

That goal is only reached when the memory of the victims has been erased, making events like Days of Remembrance so important, Kurz said.

“They reinforce the memory of these human beings not only for their own sake, which in itself would be reason enough, but for us living today as well . . . and we are called upon to resist all attempts at taking this right away from the living and the dead—then, today and in the future.”

Kurz spoke about the vitality of the Jewish community in Regensburg, a community whose existence seemed impossible at the end of 1945.

He said the community’s success is due in part to Jews from the former Soviet Union who over the past 20 years have come to help “revive the long and deep tradition of Jewish existence in Germany.”

As Kurz told American Soldiers and their family members that the group of

kindergarten children meeting at that moment is proof the community is thriving, he pointed out that Americans

should proudly remember their part in saving the Jewish culture from destruction.

“This is our resistance against the Shoah (the Holocaust): the new born vitality of Jewish life, religion and culture in this land of the Shoah; the resistance for life,” and though perseverance proves the destroyers did not succeed, resistance against further acts of destruction is the ultimate show of survival.

“In my opinion, the memory of those murdered and mentally and physically crushed in the Shoah and of the survivors who have started

anew despite internal and external opposition carries with it the obligation of resistance,” Kurz said, calling for a just, tolerant and mindful society, for the integration of people of different backgrounds, for words against political and economic activities that

destroy the lives, dreams and future of many people and for the courage to name every crime against human rights.

Though Kurz acknowledged that many people may feel powerless to stop offenses that have occurred globally since the Holocaust and continue even now, he said each person can make sure their own home is free from such injustice.

“We each need to begin in our place. Make your place a place of justice, even if it is something very small. Ask politicians what they are doing about these things. We have to speak out about it and name it for what it is,” he said, comparing it to a German saying

that many small drops of water on a stone eventually will make a hole.

Kurz ended his remarks with insight gleaned from the Torah that “there will only be freedom and justice if people are valued in all their human dimensions.”

“... the memory of those murdered and mentally and physically crushed in the Shoah and of the survivors who have started anew despite internal and external opposition carries with it the obligation of resistance.”

Martin Kurz

Days of Remembrance Guest Speaker



As the youngest attendee at the Equal Opportunity-sponsored Days of Remembrance event April 21, Sarah Massey lights a candle at the Hilltop Chapel Center in honor of the victims of the Holocaust.

IMCOM-E director visits Hohenfels, stresses increased level of services

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Diane Devens, Installation Management Command-Europe director, visited U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels April 22, touring post and meeting with agency directors about the ways USAG Hohenfels supports the Soldiers and family members stationed here, as well as the training needs of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

The large projects highlighted for Devens, who oversees all U.S. Army Garrisons in Europe, included the renovation of the post movie theater and gym.

Department of Public Works staff also showed her proposed floor plans for the renovation of Building 9 which will eventually house the Pxtra, Bookmark, Military Clothing and Sales, Sixt Car Rental and dry cleaning services.

The consolidation of those retail services into the building next to the Post Exchange, which formerly

housed vehicle inspection, is part of an initiative the garrison is calling “Main Street Hohenfels” that aims to locate the most frequently used services in one central area.

Devens heard about plans to update the Community Activities Center with a Java café, Kids Discovery Zone, playground, picnic area, bar and entertainment area. She also took time to share priorities of her own, pointing out key competencies she intends to stress with Europe’s garrisons.

She said to increase the level of service Soldiers and their families receive she plans to provide increased training for supervisors in the hopes of creating an even more positive work environment for their staff.

“This is one of the hows—not what we do but how we do it,” she said, pointing out that it is the “front door people,” not high-level program managers, who often have the most interaction with the customers, so it is those people supervisors need to focus on.

Devens said overall garrisons need to be focused on integrating

their systems with those of mission commanders, a task she said is especially important in a place like Hohenfels where unique training requirements result in cycles of surge and slow times.

“For example, instead of scheduling FRG (Family Readiness Group) training and telling them they need to come, they tell us when they want it and we do it,” she said. “When our mission commanders say they need something, we torque our systems and do it.”

She said that mindset requires a differently constructed workforce able to meet flexible demands and tight financial discipline during slow times in preparation for surge times.

In addition to briefings with garrison leadership, Devens also attended the grand opening of the movie theater and spoke to community members at the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

Diane Devens, IMCOM-E director, speaks to leaders of U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels April 22.



Community mourns beloved NCO, friend

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Friends and colleagues of Staff Sgt. Ciprian Perezbautista gathered in the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels theater April 21 to honor the 24-year-old who died April 14, five days after a car accident with a German citizen near the town of Grossbisendorf.

“We lost a fellow Soldier to circumstances beyond his or our control,” said Lt. Col. John Lange, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment commander.

Sgt. Raphael Fajardo, assigned along with Perezbautista to the Line Maintenance Section in Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-4 Inf., said he had spoken with Perezbautista before the accident and immediately knew something was wrong when he did not arrive on post when promised.

Perezbautista had just dropped off a friend at the hospital to see his new baby and was on his way to help his Soldiers with a maintenance issue when the accident happened, a perfect example of the kind of person he was, said Fajardo.

“He was going from helping one Soldier to helping another, and he would have done that



Perezbautista

for anyone. He was the most dependable person I have ever met,” Fajardo said. “He never judged a person. To him all people were good people and I envy him that.”

In addition to his never-ending generosity, his friends also spoke about his outgoing personality and fun-loving nature. “Before he had moved into our building people mostly kept to themselves, but right after he moved in he was organizing barbecues and bringing people together,” said Staff Sgt. Jerry Nkansah.

Pvt. Bryan Staub said though Perezbautista’s ability to find fun in everything always made the day go faster, he was a exemplary noncommissioned officer committed to his career.

“He was a great NCO and leader. His positive attitude and superlative leadership influenced everyone to strive for their best,” he said.

“He was born a Soldier and his career meant more to him than you can imagine,” said Nkansah.

For that dedicated service to the Army, Perezbautista was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Born in the Dominican Republic in 1984 and raised in New York City, Perezbautista entered the Army in 2003. He arrived at Hohenfels in November 2008. He is survived by his wife Halina Alvarez, his son Alaryc Tristen Perezbautista, his mother Margarita Bautista, and his two sisters Magaly Perez and Paula Santana.

Customer voice concerns at AAFES/DeCA council meeting

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Leaders from U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and its tenant units, managers from the Army Air Force Exchange Service and Defense Commissary Agency, and community members met in the Community Activities Center April 15 to discuss issues relating to Hohenfels’ AAFES and DeCA facilities and services.

The quarterly meeting began with an update on issues generated at previous meetings when Matt Mennona, who oversees AAFES locations in Bavaria, said the Post Exchange has taken precautions to safeguard cold medicines after concerns were raised about their possible abuse by younger members of the community.

Mennona said the PX now has cameras on that aisle as well as a new system in place at the registers that automatically prompts cashiers to check identification when a customer attempts to purchase one of those products.

He also said since it was brought up at the last meeting he has not received any Interactive Customer Evaluation complaints about customers experiencing long wait times when having merchandise shipped from the Grafenwoehr PX, leading him to believe the problem has been corrected.

“I read every one of them (ICE comments), so if you ever have problems, let us know so we can fix it” he said.

After one community member said he has experienced problems with the merchandise shuttle service when PX managers at other locations have been reluctant to send items to Hohenfels, Mennona said that is a concern he can only address with managers if customers use ICE to alert him to the problem.

“I put a very high priority on customer service,” he said. “I can relay those concerns to my managers if they are brought to my attention because it really is all for one (between the different AAFES locations). The manager’s performance evaluations are based not just on sales but also customer service. Just let me know.”

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cofield expressed concern that items at the furniture store in Vilseck are too pricey for many Soldiers.

Mennona acknowledged that many items

are expensive, but said he tries to maintain a combination of value and quality in his merchandise and insisted that AAFES furniture is reasonably priced.

On the topic of the availability of AAFES furniture in Hohenfels, Mennona proposed that instead of a furniture expo where AAFES brings furniture to Hohenfels, customers might prefer a bus trip for the Hohenfels community (paid for by AAFES) that would take them to the furniture instead of the other way around.

“What would happen is we’d charter a bus to take people up to Vilseck so you can see everything, not just some of it.”

“It would be more cost effective for both AAFES and the community,” he said.

Mennona added he would open the store early that day for participants and that Hohenfels residents would be charged the same local delivery prices as at an expo.

In response to audience comments, Mennona also said his managers will work with Army officials to better stock the Warrior Hill shoppette during Army Reserve rotations and will also work with his employees to increase the number of individual pizza slices available at

Anthony’s Pizza during lunch hours.

Jamie Segarra, commissary manager, briefed the meeting on the commissary’s new early bird hours and a case lot sale planned for May 29-30.

“I really want this to work. I’ve gotten positive feedback so far,” he said of the early bird hours during which the store opens one hour early Tuesday through Friday for self check-out service only.

The hours will be monitored for the first 90 days, continuing only if successful.

Segarra said he wanted to remind all commissary patrons that “if you have any issues with specific items, come straight to me,” or fill out an ICE comment.

Garrison officials said that next to ICE comments, the AAFES/DeCA council meetings are one of the best ways customers can voice concerns about and suggestions for their AAFES and DeCA facilities.

The date of the next meeting is to be determined.

Check the Hohenfels Hometown Happenings and daily news briefs at www.hohenfels.army.mil/ for updates.



Photo by Kristin Bradley

Left to right: Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, USAG Hohenfels commander; Diane Devens, IMCOM-E director; Matt Mennona, general manager of the Grafenwoehr consolidated Army Air Force Exchange Services; and Col. Charles Preysler, commander of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, cut the ribbon at the grand re-opening of the Hohenfels movie theater April 22.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

German-American Volksfest

Attend the German-American Volksfest, Friday-Monday, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Vilseck German-American KONTAKT Club at the Ziegelanger Festplatz, City of Vilseck.

There will be entertainment for children and adults, carnival rides, musical entertainment, German-American food specialties.

Schedule for Friday, opening day:

- 4-6 p.m. - Carnival rides special- kids time (half prices on all carnival rides)
- 6 p.m. - Official keg tapping with German and U.S. military officials
- 7 p.m. - Western & line dancing with entertainment by country band "Amarillo" and Germany's Country DJ of the Year "Rowdy Randy."

Fest begins Friday at 4 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m., Sunday at 11 a.m. and Monday at 4 p.m.

For more, visit www.kontakt-vilseck.de.

Fuel Ration Outage

AAFES will have a scheduled system outage that will affect the ESSO Ration Card System May 19 from 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Between these hours customers will not be able to purchase fuel on post or at local ESSO stations. The outage is necessary so the Fuel Ration Card will remain compliant with industry security requirements.

Early-bird shopping

Early-bird shopping is now accessible Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 - 10 a.m. at the Vilseck Commissary. Only self-checkout registers will be open, so there will be a 15 item limit. Deli sandwiches will be available at the Grab-n-Go section, but made-to-order sandwiches will not be available until 10 a.m.

Tax centers are open

Scheduled appointments and walk-ins are available daily with extended hours several days a week.

In Graf, call DSN 475-9258, CIV 09641-83-9258, in Vilseck DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714 for more.

Spring Cleanup

Now through Friday, all Soldiers, civilians and family members are expected to participate in Spring Cleanup for the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities.

This applies to government or government-leased quarters as well as the work place. Help make this the best place to live and serve in Germany by sorting your trash and keeping our area neat and clean.

Detailed information on your role in

the Spring Cleanup campaign is posted on the garrison Web site at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

Be the best

Do you have what it takes to be "The Best?" USAG Grafenwoehr will be recognizing the best yards and multi-family buildings for Spring 2009. Judging will be on May 16. To volunteer to be a judge or for more on the contest, contact Gloria Mike at DSN 475-6457, CIV 09641-83-6457 or e-mail gloria.mike@eur.army.mil.

Jewish fellowship

There will be a barbecue for Jewish personnel and their families Monday at 7 p.m. (Lag B'Omer) at Doktor-Martin-Luther-Straße 54, 92637 Weiden.

R.S.V.P. to Eric and Miriam Tobias, DSN 475-9633, CIV 0151-238-335-54 or e-mail jrlgbavaria@googlemail.com for more.

Travel opportunities

To sign-up for these trips, call Vilseck ITR DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563, or Graf ODR DSN 475-7402, CIV 09662-83-7402.

- Cinque Terre, Pisa, and Lucca Italy, May 21-25
- Amsterdam, Holland, June 4-7
- Rome and Cicily, Italy, June 13-22
- Cracow, Poland, June 26-28

Employment readiness

ACS Employment Readiness Program offers weekly e-mails of jobs available within USAG Grafenwoehr.

Gain the skills you need to find the job you want. Call ACS at Vilseck CIV 09662-83-2650, or Graf CIV 09641-83-8371 for more or to be put on the job distribution list.

Clinic appointments

You can now book your Vilseck Health Clinic appointments by following these steps:

1. Visit <https://www.tricareonline.com/welcome.do>
2. Click to agree with terms and conditions
3. Click Register with TOL
4. Fill in the appropriate information for each family member

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Sgt. William P. Sullivan II of 3rd Squadron, 2d SCR, H Company, 2nd Platoon should contact court martial officer 1st Lt. Timothy L. Geitner at DSN 476-5286 or e-mail timothy.geitner@eur.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Israel Candelaria Mejias of 1-2 IN Task Force, 3-66 AR, 172nd In Brigade, should contact the following summary court

martial officer, 1st Lt. Sean N. Dexter at DSN: 475-9262 or e-mail sean.dexter@us.army.mil.

Academic mentors needed

Dr. Elizabeth Childs, Netzaberg Middle School principal, is calling for adult volunteers to mentor students grades 6-8 towards academic success.

Mentors would make a nine-week commitment to come to the school once a week from 1:30-2:45 p.m. to tutor a student.

If interested, contact the middle school counselors at lisa.levy@eu.dodea.edu, or pamela.skorupski@eu.dodea.edu.

VFW news

The Grafenwoehr VFW hosts an Open House every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Business meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 6 p.m.

POC is Commander, James Holliman 0160-91423858, or Sr. Vice Commander Roger Schneider 0160-95877025.

Vilseck VFW holds an Open VFW night Thursdays for members and for those that are curious, held at Bldg. 133 (located behind Vilseck Fire Station) 6-10 p.m.

Now hiring

The Community Bank in Vilseck is looking for a part-time teller. The position will be temporary until December 31, but may become permanent.

Applications can be picked up at any CommunityBank, but must be turned in to Vilseck's banking center.

For more call CIV 09662-8791, or e-mail vilseck.bc@dodcommunitybank.com

DoDDS positions open

DoDDS is looking for people who enjoy working with children of all ages.

To apply, visit <http://www.bav-dso.eu.dodea.edu/> and click the employment link. The following openings are available to view:

- General clerk and assistant - No. OCA-2009-0303
- Secretary (office automation) - No. OCA-2009-0318
- Office automation tech - No. OCA-2009-0326
- Library tech - No. OCA-2009-1411
- Education and training tech - No. OCA-2009-1702 (General: 9316, Special education: 9255, Kindergarten: 9289, Sure start: 9254)
- Transportation tech - No. OCA-2009-2102

Send a complete application for each announcement, using the application checklist provided on the Bavaria Web site to bavaria.applicant@eu.dodea.edu. Incomplete packets will not be processed.

Food survey

As a part of the School Meal Program improvement planning, AAFES SMP administration is conducting a satisfaction survey to gain important feedback on how you rate SMP nutrition services.

The survey will run now through May 15 and can be found at <http://odin.aafes.com/nutrition/08/index.html>.

Hohenfels Briefs

I love my mommy

The library is hosting a special craft day May 6 where children of all ages can make a special craft for Mother's Day to take home to their mothers. This 90-minute event begins at 2:30 p.m. For more, call the library at DSN 466-1740.

Celebrate nurse week

All nurses on post are invited to a luncheon Friday at noon in the Health Clinic conference room. Call DSN 466-3117 to reserve a seat.

KONTAKT Club

Check out your local German-American friendship organization, KONTAKT Club in Hohenfels.

Sponsored by the U.S. Army, it invites American personnel, families and German citizens from the surrounding communities to participate in the Club's upcoming activities.

Today: Monthly bowling night at Lane 17, from 7-9 p.m.

Friday: Day trip to military museum in Amberg, lunch and a tour of the beautiful church that overlooks the town.

For more or for directions to the events call the Public Affairs Office at

DSN 466-4294 or visit the club's Web site at www.kontakt-hohenfels.com.

Spouse appreciation

ACS will honor military spouses Friday in the main lobby of Bldg. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The celebration will include cake and a free hot or cold beverage from Brew in the Box for all military spouse I.D. card holders. A free spot will be won by 13 lucky spouses for the spa day trip organized by ITR. Useful information will be available from a variety of FMWR organizations.

American Red Cross classes

There will be a CPR & first aid class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday in the ACS conference room.

Cost is \$30 for First Aid, \$35 for CPR or \$40 for both. Additional course dates are available in Vilseck.

A baby sitter's training class for youth ages 11-15 years, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. will take place Saturday in the SAS building. Cost is \$35.

Visit the American Red Cross office in Bldg. 10 or call DSN 466-1760 to register. Phone registration is available with credit card payment.

Asian Pacific heritage

The Hohenfels community will celebrate Asian Pacific cultures at the Community Activities Center May 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Maj. Gen. Bagby, USAREUR Chief of Staff, will be guest speaker. There will be food sampling, cultural dance demonstrations and ethnic displays. For more, call Master Sgt. Chris Mulvihill at DSN 466-4102.

Bowling tournament

Enjoy the 9 pin "no tap" bowling tournament May 16 where 9 pins gets you credit for a strike. There will be two sessions at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person including unlimited soft drinks. There will also be jackpots to enter and prizes to win. Register any time. Call DSN 466-4611 for more.

FAST class

If you need to raise your GT score or brush up on reading and math skills to prepare for college, consider enrolling in the upcoming FAST class. Instruction will be held at the Education Center, May 27-June 9 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Interested Soldiers will need to come to the Education Center, Bldg. 351, for an enrollment form to be signed by their commander and take a TABE test. Ten students must be enrolled for class to run. For more, call Crystal Newman at DSN 466-2882.

Extreme bowling

Bowl Your Brains Out with an Extreme Bowling twist every Saturday from 8-11 p.m. Bowl as many games as you want

for just \$10 for adults and \$7 for children ages 12 and under.

Estate Claims

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Staff Sgt. Ciprian PerezBautista, of HHC 1-4 IN BN, should contact the summary court officer 1st Lt. Robert Murray at DSN 466-4043.

Kids' Club

Parents and children can participate in gross motor play every Thursday at the CYSS Annex Facility, Bldg. 44, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Activities include climbing, crawling, manipulating obstacles, running, jumping and other fun events. Children must be CYSS/Kids' Club registered. Kids' Club is free and a great opportunity to get out, relax and make new friends. Open to parents with infants to kindergarten-age children. Call CLEOS for more at DSN 466-2078/2080.

Blood donors needed

The Hohenfels Health Clinic is sponsoring a blood drive. In order for the donor center team to come to the Hohenfels community, 65 people must pre-register. By donating one unit of blood, you could save three lives.

Blood donated to the U.S. Army blood program is only used in military medical treatment facilities and on front lines. In order to donate, you must not have been deployed in the last 12 months, not have been stationed at a military installation for more than six months between 1980-1996, or have lived in Europe for five years or more since Jan. 1, 1980. Other restrictions apply.

Contact Sgt. Christopher Black at DSN 466-4006 or christopher.black2@amedd.army.mil to pre-register or for more.

DoDDS positions open

DoDDS is looking for people who enjoy working with children of all ages.

To apply, visit <http://www.bav-dso.eu.dodea.edu/> and click the employment link. The following openings are available to view:

- General clerk and assistant - No. OCA-2009-0303
- Secretary (office automation) - No. OCA-2009-0318
- Office automation tech - No. OCA-2009-0326
- Library tech - No. OCA-2009-1411
- Education and training tech - No. OCA-2009-1702 (General: 9316, Special education: 9255, Kindergarten: 9289, Sure start: 9254)
- Transportation tech - No. OCA-2009-2102

Send a complete application for each announcement, using the application checklist provided on the Bavaria Web site to bavaria.applicant@eu.dodea.edu. Incomplete packets will not be processed.


**German - American
VOLKSFEST
VILSECK**


**30 Years Kontakt Club Vilseck
Friday, May 8**

1600 Carnival Rides Special (half Prices) until 1800 hrs
1800 Keg Tapping with Mayor Schertl & Command of US Army
19:00 Western & Line Dance Night with the Band **"Amarillo"** and Germany's Country DJ of the Year **"Rowdy Randy"**

Saturday, May 9

14:00 Start of the Fest
14:00 Day of the Club (local Club Exhibition)
19:00 Rock Night with the Band **"Vanish"**
22:00 Happy Hour

Sunday, May 10

11:00 Start of the Fest
14:00 Anniversary Parade (downtown Vilseck)
16:00 Party with the Band **"Rotzloffl"**

Monday, May 11

16:00 Start of the Fest
18:00 Maßkrug Holding Contest
19:00 Bavarian Night with Bavarian Music Band

Carnival Rides

German & American Food and Drinks
www.kontakt-vilseck.de





**APRIL 15
has passed.**

("D'oh!")

**Don't panic --
U.S. Army Europe
tax centers will
remain open until
June 15.**



ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

AAFES extends hours

Army and Air Force Exchange Service is extending hours at two of its eateries in the Ansbach community. Subway at Storck Barracks is now open until 8 p.m. Monday-Friday. Burger King on Katterbach is now open until 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Both hour extensions are 90-day tests to determine if usage is enough to continue with extended hours.

Community blood drives

Katterbach and Storck Barracks host May community blood drives through the Armed Services Blood Program. The Storck Barracks blood drive is Tuesday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the fitness center. At Katterbach, the blood drive is May 13 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fitness center. Donor gifts are available. Everyone is asked to invite friends and family to give blood to save lives. Make an appointment and register with the ASBP by going to <http://www.militarylifeforce.com> and clicking on Landstuhl.

Meet the author

Daniel Wallace, author of “Big Fish” and “The Watermelon King,” will be on hand Friday for a writing workshop from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and a book reading from 7-8 p.m. at the Von Steuben Recreation Center on Bismarck Kaserne. For more, call the Bleidorn Library at DSN 468-1740, CIV 0981-183-1740.

AER campaign

The Ansbach Army Emergency Relief Campaign runs now to May 15. For more on the campaign or to find out how to contribute to AER, call DSN 467-2553, CIV 09802-83-2553.

College hybrid class

The University of Maryland Europe offers a hybrid Introduction to Sociology class May 31-July 25. The hybrid class is 50 percent online and 50 percent in the classroom. The classroom portion of the hybrid meets Wednesdays from 5:30-8:30 p.m. For more, call your local UMUC representative: Storck, DSN 467-4991, CIV 09841-83-4991; or Katterbach, DSN 467-2847, CIV 09802-83-2847.

School registration

USAG Ansbach area schools are registering for the 2009-2010 school year now. Parents are advised that the earlier they register, the better service the schools will be able to provide. For more, call your servicing school.

Medical appointments online

Katterbach Health Clinic patients can now make appointments online. Log on to the Web site <http://www.tricareonline.com> and register. Then, follow the instructions.

Early school withdrawal

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools early withdrawal date for this school year is May 15. Because military families are sometimes required to move before the end of the school year, this date provides flexibility without compromising academic standards or putting a student behind in the curriculum. For more, call your servicing school.

Mail notification via e-mail

The USAG Ansbach Community Mail rooms now offer e-mail notifications when packages arrive. For more or to register for the service, talk to the staff at your local CMR.

Marriage, family therapy

The Ansbach Behavioral Health Clinic on Bleidorn Kaserne, Bldg. 5083, has a marriage and family therapist available every Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The therapist will assist with pre- and post-deployment related issues impacting the marriage or family. The therapist also sees couples and families for counseling not related to deployment. For more or to make an appointment, call DSN 468-7853, CIV 0981-183-853.

ASCC scholarships

Applications for the Ansbach Spouses’ and Civilians’ Club Scholarship Program are available. There are three categories: high school seniors, college students who are military family members and spouses’ club members pursuing higher education. Applications are available online at <http://www.asccgermany.org>. For more on the program, e-mail scholarship@asccgermany.org.

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Schweinfurt Briefs

Got questions? Get answers

The community is invited to attend the next Community Update Forum at Schweinfurt Elementary School Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. Do you have questions or concerns regarding the military community of Schweinfurt? Come express them and learn about upcoming events.

Free flowers

Free flowers are available one day only at the Askren recycling center today. Eligible patrons are residents of Askren Manor, Yorktown Village and military families in government-leased housing only. Remaining flowers can be picked up at building 252, Self Help Issue Point, after May 6 until all are given away.

Donate to soup kitchen

Donate to the spring food drive for Elim Christian Mission’s soup kitchen in Poland until Sunday. Items requested are canned vegetables, rice, beans, pasta and dried peas. By donating, you will help to feed 100 people each day that rely on the mission’s soup kitchen. Drop off donations at the Ledward chapel foyer area, School Age Services, Youth Center, Schweinfurt Middle School or Andrews Federal Credit Union. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6860, DSN 354-6860.

Writer’s workshop

Published author Daniel Wallace is touring Europe. Ledward library invites you to join in their trip to Ansbach library for his writer’s workshop May 18. Transportation costs \$10 and departs the library at 4 p.m. with an approximate return time of 8 p.m. Reserve a seat at CIV 09721-96-1740, DSN 354-1740.

High ropes course fun

Challenge yourself physically and mentally on over 100 elements in different heights (while safe in a harness) on Conn Outdoor Rec’s high ropes course trip Saturday. Sign up now. Trip departs at noon and returns around 4 p.m. Cost is \$30 for transportation and use of ropes course and equipment. Call ODR at CIV 09721-96-8080, DSN 353-8080.

Quartet performs

Come to Schweinfurt Elementary School tonight at 6 p.m. to hear the southern gospel Daybreak Quartet perform at no charge. The community is invited to attend. For more on the recording artists who have sung internationally as well as coast to coast, go to www.daybreakquartet.com.

Children’s book week

Come to the Ledward Library for Children’s Book Week May 12-18. Kids are invited to read their favorite stories via video message to Iraqi children. The week also features the library’s second children’s book drive. All donated books and video messages will be sent to HHC 9th Engineers in Kalsu, Iraq to distribute to the Iraqi children near their base. To set up a time for your child to read, call CIV 09721-96-1740, DSN 354-7140.

Single Soldier events

Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (B.O.S.S.) for activities throughout each month at the Finney Rec Center on Conn Barracks. For times and details, call CIV 09721-96-8476, DSN 353-8476.

- Tuesday – Halo 3 tournament
- May 13 – Movie & popcorn night
- May 19 – Table tennis tournament

Love and logic parenting

Army Community Service offers classes for those interested in “Becoming a Love & Logic Parent.” The class is held Tuesdays starting May 12 from 9-11 a.m. at School Age Services. Those interested can attend at any time. Free child care is available and limited. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933, DSN 354-6933.

Free computer classes

Do you need to learn more computer

skills? Or do you want to learn more advanced techniques? Army Community Service is offering free computer classes. Classes meet at Ledward building 206 computer lab and run from 8:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of each class. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933, DSN 354-6933.

- Today: Basic Microsoft Word 2007 II
- Tomorrow: Internet Explorer 7 & basic web design
- May 18: Basic Microsoft Excel 2007 I
- May 19: Basic Microsoft Excel 2007 II
- May 20: Microsoft Power Point 2007

Softball tourney

Men and women are invited to join a community softball tournament at Conn main and Pendleton sports fields May 16-17 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Registration for the tournament is open to I.D. card holders age 18 and older and ends Tuesday. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-8234, DSN 353-8234.

Newcomers orientation

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, attend the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program May 4-8. Free childcare is available the entire week. Get acquainted with the military community as well as the German town of Schweinfurt. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933, DSN 354-6933.

College & finances seminar

Parents and students grades 8-12 are invited to attend the seminar “College 101 and financial aid” at the Abrams Entertainment Center May 13 at 6 p.m. Receive valuable information about career paths, college applications, scholarships and financial aid.

Craft & flea market trip

The Ledward Crafts Studio invites you to attend a trip to the Kukuksmarkt at Rueckersfeld Sunday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. The traditional handcraft and farmers market has games for children and lots of food. A stop at a flea market will be made on the way. Call CIV 09721-96-6903, DSN 354-6903 to sign up.

Pregnant?

Come to Army Community Service’s class “OB orientation” May 20 from 9 a.m.-noon to learn about your pregnancy, nutrition, resources in the community and more. Both mothers and fathers are encouraged to attend. Call CIV 09721-96-6933, DSN 354-6933.

Labor and birthing tips

Do you have a baby on the way and want to know what to expect? Come to

Army Community Service’s two-part series “Birth-n-Babies” at Ledward ACS on Friday and May 13 from 9 a.m.-noon. Learn the latest about what is available for labor and delivery, how to handle complications, and what to do the first night home with your new baby. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933, DSN 354-6933.

Winefest trip

Join Outdoor Recreation May 17 on a day trip to the winefest in Stammheim. Let them do the driving while you do the sampling. Bus departs at noon and returns at 5 p.m. Transportation is \$10. Call CIV 09721-96-8080, DSN 353-8080 to sign up.

Saturday child care available

Do you need a break from the kids to run errands or just relax at home? Sign up now for Child, Youth, and School Services’ (CYSS) super saturday child care May 30. Children ages 6 weeks-fifth-grade will be cared for from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for \$16. The program includes one meal. Children must be registered with CYSS and have current immunizations. Reservation deadline is May 22. Call CYSS central registration for more at CIV 09721-96-6414, DSN 354-6414.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Please put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on Tuesday but no earlier than Monday. Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle.

DoDDS positions open

DoDDS is looking for people who enjoy working with children of all ages. To apply, visit <http://www.bav-dso.eu.dodea.edu/> and click the employment link. The following openings are available to view:

- General clerk and assistant - No. OCA-2009-0303
- Secretary (office automation) - No. OCA-2009-0318
- Office automation tech - No. OCA-2009-0326
- Library tech - No. OCA-2009-1411
- Education and training tech - No. OCA-2009-1702 (General: 9316, Special education: 9255, Kindergarten: 9289, Sure start: 9254)
- Transportation tech - No. OCA-2009-2102

Send a complete application for each announcement, using the application checklist provided on the Bavaria website to bavaria.applicant@eu.dodea.edu. Incomplete packets will not be processed.



GOOD JOB GREAT MISSION

The Air Force Reserve is offering part-time opportunities for Navigators with excellent benefits, including choice of home base, education assistance, secure employment and competitive pay.

Choose your home base and you will not be transferred. Receive low cost TRICARE health insurance. Maintain retirement benefits. In most cases you can retain your rank.

Continue to build close friendships, serve your country and participate in experiences unique to the military.

Accomplish extraordinary things while you achieve your personal goals.



EVERYDAY PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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Conversations

with **Daniel Wallace**

Daniel Wallace, author of *Big Fish*, *Mr. Sebastian* and *the Negro Magician*, and more, is coming to Europe! Join him for a writer's workshop and reading at a library near you.

5:30 p.m. Writing Workshop
7 p.m. Reading

Tour Dates

May 12, 2009 :: Stuttgart
May 13, 2009 :: Ansbach
May 15, 2009 :: Grafenwoehr
May 16, 2009 :: Vicenza
May 18, 2009 :: Landstuhl
May 19, 2009 :: Heidelberg
May 20, 2009 :: Baumholder
May 21, 2009 :: Brussels

The sun shines on the highest point in the Wetterstein mountain group, the Zugspitze, while other peaks in the region emerge from the mist in the distance. The summit is also the highest in Germany at 2,965 meters.

Photos by Mike Stuebinger

Wetterstein

Explore the majesty and beauty of the Alps

by JESSICA ROBERSON
Special to the Bavarian News

Writer and poet Henry David Thoreau once wrote, “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach...”

There are few better ways to save money this summer than playing in your free time in your own back yard. Headlines in the states are reporting on the growing trend of families pinching pennies this summer by planning trips that do not entail expensive travel arrangements.

It’s a no-brainer for folks to cut

back on extravagant trips this year due to the economic downturn, but the good news about living in Bavaria is that there is such an amazing “back yard” to explore. A Bayern Pass on the German rail system can take up to five adults from Grafenwoehr to Garmisch (or anywhere in Bavaria) for €30. An inexpensive city bus from the Bahnhof will deliver you almost to the front gate of Artillery Kaserne. Once at USAG Garmisch, the garrison’s Alpine experts at Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation can help with equipment, advice or provide a guided expedition.

The most satisfying views are the ones that are earned by putting on a

pair of hiking shoes, putting one foot in front of the other, and taking the time to enjoy these mountains from every angle. The morning light on the Hausberg tells its own unique story. The light changes by midday as you climb above the tree line and see the craggy face of the Alpspitze towering above off to your right.

Each mountain top you conquer comes with a cross at the peak and a book for you to inscribe your name, letting you leave a bit of your own legacy for others to read. The series of huttles (small mountain huts) in the area make wandering the Alps a civilized affair with homemade soups, schnitzels, local beer, and the favorite

Bavarian dessert “Kaiserschmarrn,” a pastry concoction with a fruit filling served with ice cream. Any of these choices beats a baggy of trail mix any day.

You don’t have to be a mountaineer to explore the local Alps around Garmisch, either. Because of its intricate series of easy-to-challenging hiking trails, affordable cable cars and a train through the mountain almost to the summit of Germany’s highest peak, the Zugspitze, the Alps of Garmisch are designed to help get people of all ages and fitness levels to ascend into this limestone paradise.

For unseasoned hikers who are nervous about walking the Alps,

Garmisch’s ODR has guided overnight hikes scheduled for this summer to conquer the Zugspitze or sleep in the Schachen Hutte, aka “Mad King” Ludwig’s hunting lodge. For the truly adventurous, there is also white-water kayaking or rafting offered by ODR - they’ll take to the starting point and bring you back when you’re done. Even a day trip through Partnach Gorge provides an unforgettable experience.

Take the trail less travelled - it comes with a guarantee that you won’t regret it. Garmisch ODR, in Bldg. 725 (the Pete Burke Community Center) can be contacted at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638 Monday-Friday.



Above: The Alpspitze, adorned with a wooden cross, rises up into the sky.

Top left: The viewing platform on the peak adjacent to the Zugspitze offers visitors a beautiful panoramic scene. It has food and drink, and often hosts live music - usually Bavarian. It also features several opportunities to view the sunset with dinner and entertainment.

Top right: From the hiking trail, a view of the Hoch Alm and the Alpspitze gives hikers the satisfaction of a climb well-done.

Right: A visitor’s map shows the Werdenfels region and the Wetterstein mountain group that surrounds the Garmisch-Partenkirchen area.



Prevent spread of influenza, H1N1 strain

ERMC news release

With the recent H1N1 flu outbreak (often referred to as Swine Flu), preventative measures against sickness are as important as ever. If someone is ill in one's household, it is important to avoid the spread of sickness. Members of the community are reminded that these steps are helpful to prevent the spread of any case of influenza.

For the most up-to-date, specific information on the status of the H1N1 flu outbreak, please visit http://www.eucom.mil/english/swine_flu/swine_flu.asp or <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>.

Steps to prevent the spread of flu in the home

- When providing care to a household member who is sick with influenza, the most important ways to protect yourself and others who are not sick are to:
- Have everyone in the household clean their hands often, using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub – especially after coughing or sneezing.
 - Keep the sick person in a room separate from the common areas of the house. (For example, a spare bedroom with its own bathroom, if that's possible.) Keep the sickroom door closed. This bathroom should be cleaned daily with household disinfectant.
 - Have the sick person wear a surgical mask if they need to be in a common area of the house near other persons.
 - Provide tissues for the sick person to use for sneezing and coughing. Provide a closed container for disposal of used tissues.
 - Unless necessary for medical care, persons with the flu should not leave the home when they have a fever or during the time that they are most likely to spread their infection to others (seven days after onset of symptoms in adults, and 10 days after onset of symptoms in children).
 - If persons with the flu need to leave the home (for example, for medical care), they should cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and wear a loose-fitting (surgical) mask if available.
 - Inform your healthcare provider of household contacts of the sick person,



Courtesy photo

Prevent the spread of the H1N1 flu, or any influenza, by washing hands often and taking precautions.


- who have chronic medical conditions which may place them at higher risk for complication of influenza.
- Household cleaning, laundry, and waste disposal**
- Throw away tissues and other disposable items used by the sick person in the trash. Wash your hands after touching used tissues and similar waste.
 - Keep surfaces (especially bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, and toys for children) clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label. If using individual moistened cloths change them frequently - use one for the toilet, a new one for the sink, etc. and discard.
 - Linens, eating utensils, and dishes belonging to those who are sick do not need to be cleaned separately, but importantly these items should not be shared without washing thoroughly first.
 - Wash linens (such as bed sheets and towels) by using household laundry soap and tumble dry on a hot setting.

- Avoid “hugging” laundry prior to washing it to prevent contaminating yourself.
 - Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub right after handling dirty laundry.
- If you are the caregiver**
- Designate one person only as the ill person's caregiver.
 - When holding small children who are sick, place their chin on your shoulder so that they will not cough in your face.
 - Clean your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub after you touch the sick person or handle used tissues, or laundry.
 - Caregivers might catch flu from the person they are caring for and then the caregiver might be able to spread the flu to others before the caregiver shows symptoms. Limit movement of all household members outside the home to essential business unless further restrictions are recommended by public health authorities.
 - Monitor yourself and household members for flu symptoms and

- contact your local health care clinic IMMEDIATELY if symptoms occur.
- Minimize close face-to-face contact with the sick person; if unavoidable, you should try to wear a facemask. A simple, blue “surgical” facemask is adequate for the majority of situations
 - An N95 respirator (more advanced facemask) may be considered if you help a sick person with respiratory treatments using a nebulizer or inhaler, as directed by their doctor. Ask your clinic/provider for more information on these N95 respirators, if they are indicated and how they should be used.
 - Respiratory treatments should be performed in a separate room away from common areas of the house when at all possible.
 - Used facemasks and N95 respirators should be taken off and placed immediately in the regular trash; avoid reusing if possible. Wash your hands immediately afterwards.
- Protect other persons**
- Clean Your Hands! All persons

- should clean their hands with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand rub frequently, including after every contact with the sick person or the person's room or bathroom. Use paper towels for drying hands after hand washing or dedicate cloth towels to each person in the household.
- Restrict Visitors! The sick person should not have visitors other than caregivers. Friends and relatives should make a phone call – it is safer than a visit.
 - Avoid having pregnant women care for the sick person – they are at increased risk of influenza-related complications and immunity can be suppressed during pregnancy.
 - If possible, consideration should be given to maintaining good ventilation in shared household areas (e.g., keeping windows open in restrooms, kitchen, bathroom, etc.).
- People with Novel Influenza (H1N1) who are cared for at home should:**
- Stay home for seven days after the start of illness and fever is gone.
 - Get plenty of rest and drink clear fluids (such as water, broth, sports drinks, electrolyte beverages for infants) to keep from being dehydrated.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes. Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub often and especially after using tissues and after coughing or sneezing into hands.
 - Avoid close contact with others – do not go to work or school while ill.
 - Be watchful for emergency warning signs that might indicate you need to seek medical attention. Seek medical attention right away if the sick person at home: has difficulty breathing or chest pain, has purple or blue discoloration of the lips, is vomiting and unable to keep liquids down, has signs of dehydration such as dizziness when standing, absence of urination, or in infants, a lack of tears when they cry , has seizures (for example, uncontrolled convulsions) or is less responsive than normal or becomes confused.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
OPEN HOUSE



May 14
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Located in the rear parking lot
of the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic
Building 476A

Meet the staff • Get answer to your
questions • Enjoy free treats!

Third party insurance brings money back to local clinics

by ANNE M. TORPHY
Bavarian MEDDAC PAO

If individuals have other health insurance besides TRICARE or Medicare, it is important (and the law) they follow some steps to ensure their local health clinic has correct information for billing purposes.

It's fairly easy to do, and the money is put into the local footprint to help increase quality of care provided by the seven health clinics that are part of Bavaria Medical Command.

What is the Third Party Collection Program? The TPCP is a congressionally mandated program that authorizes military treatment facilities to bill private health insurance plans for services provided, such as immunizations, physical therapy, optometry, pharmacy, lab and radiology.

Retirees or dependents who have private health insurance are required to participate.

Policyholders pay premiums for coverage, and TRICARE is obligated to collect money to reimburse the military for services provided, which is a mirror of civilian insurance practices.

What do I need to do? Individuals who have other health insurance

besides TRICARE or Medicare, complete a DD Form 2569, Third Party Collection Program - Insurance Information, and indicate your private health insurance status.

This form, updated annually, will be kept in your medical record.

The information will be entered into the database and will be used to bill the insurance companies for all medical services that you receive at the local health clinic.

The form can be found at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2569.pdf or via a Google search.

Patients should inform the front desk of the health clinic that they have other health insurance every time they have an appointment.

Some clinics have special cards that they give private health insurance patients.

Patients should present that card at the time of their appointment.

What kinds of health insurance plans are included? The program includes employer-sponsored health insurance, group plans such as those offered by associations, private individual policies, and Medicare supplemental policies.

The following types of insurance are excluded from billing: Medicare

for people over age 65, TRICARE, TRICARE supplemental policies, and Medicaid.

What are the advantages to the patient? Most insurance plans have a deductible that must be met before the plan starts to pay.

When TRICARE files claims, the amount billed to the patient will be counted against the patient's deductible.

Therefore, if the patients visit the health clinic a few times and pay their deductible, they will actually spend less money out of pocket.

How will the collected money be used?

TRICARE is allowed to keep the money recovered. DoD instructions specify the money be used to increase the quality of care.

Therefore, Bavaria MEDDAC has the discretion to spend money as required by priorities. The money may be used for equipment and supplies, furniture, renovations to the facility and additional staff members.

What if patients have more questions?

Patients can contact their local TRICARE office or health clinic or the Bavaria MEDDAC patient affairs division at DSN 314-476-4681, CIV 09662-83-4681.

Deployed Soldiers remember, pay tribute to victims of the Holocaust

Story and photo by
Pfc. Bethany L. Little
172nd Infantry Brigade

“Never again: What you do Matters” was the theme for the Days of Remembrance Program held at the Blackhawk Inn dining facility, Forward Operating Base Kalsu, April 21.

In honor of Jewish American Heritage Month, the 172nd Infantry Brigade held a prayer breakfast to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

“Our goal is to educate and spread awareness of the events surrounding the Holocaust and what the victims experienced,” said Sgt. 1st Class Micheal L. Lambert, 172nd Inf. Bde. Equal Opportunity Advisor.

A presentation was shown to highlight the lives and hardships of Jewish people who suffered persecution from Hitler’s regime.

Volunteers read several victim biographies and lit seven candles to represent the 6 million Jews who perished.

Capt. Ryan Swedlow, B Company, 172nd Inf. Bde. Commander, spoke about how the Holocaust began and the influence it had on one of his friends.

Swedlow described the fate of his friend Walter’s life when Adolf Hitler began taking

away Jewish rights. He spoke about how Walter and his family were sent by trains to the concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

Upon arrival, Walter’s mother and sister were immediately sent to the gas chamber. Walter’s father lived almost to the time of liberation but died of typhoid fever.

Walter survived Auschwitz by interviewing and testing for The Siemens Company. The company planned to build a munitions factory at the camp and needed tool and die makers.

Walter worked at the factory until the Nazis decided to evacuate the camp.

He marched to the trains that would take him back to Germany and an uncertain future.

Swedlow went on to explain how Walter decided he did not want to find out what the Nazis had in store for him, so he and a camp friend jumped from the moving train.

As they jumped out, the guards shot at them, his friend died and Walter suffered from a gunshot wound to the groin, of which he later recovered.

Assisted by Russian soldiers and a Polish family, Walter eventually made it back to Berlin.

He helped restore the remnant wing of his old synagogue and immigrated to the U.S. in 1946.

The Holocaust reminds us of the fragility of democracy and the need for citizens to be both well informed and vigilant in the preservation of democratic ideas.

Capt. Ryan Swedlow
B Company, 172nd Inf. Bde. Commander



Seven candles were lit during the Days of Remembrance Program held here at the Blackhawk Inn dining facility April 21. The candles represented the six million Jews who perished during the course of the Holocaust.

“This was a heartwarming experience and it touched home for me,” said Sgt. Brian K. Wasden, 172nd Inf. Bde. Support Battalion, track mechanic.

“I’m of Jewish descent and it was nice to see people supporting an event to remember what so many innocent people went through.”

Although the Holocaust was essentially a dark time in Germany’s history, remembrance

of the victims and retelling their stories are ways to prevent another tragic loss of life.

“The Holocaust reminds us of the fragility of democracy and the need for citizens to be both well informed about and vigilant in the preservation of democratic ideals,” said Swedlow.

“An engaged citizenry that embraces the power of the individual to make a difference is the frontline defense for a strong, just society.”

Karaoke king brings gift, love of music to children



by Spc. JERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs Office

Music and lending a hand has always been a part of 1st Lt. Jermaine Goodman’s life.

From his days of singing in the church choir as a boy, to playing the piano at a local nursing home after school, Goodman has never failed to bring the gift of music to others.

Brogan Ernst takes a turn at the mic during the 4th Annual Spring Break Kid’s Karaoke hosted for the first time at the Vilseck library.

Photo by Vince Pavone

Now as a chemical officer for 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Goodman is passing along his love of music to the next generation by volunteering his time and vocal talents to the 4th Annual Spring Break Kid’s Karaoke at the Rose Barracks Library in Vilseck.

“This is our first time hosting this event in Vilseck,” said program coordinator Kathy Henderson. “When the libraries combined under one system we brought over our successful programs from Grafenwoehr to give our entire community a chance to be crazy and cut loose.”

According to Henderson, help with the program from young Soldiers like Goodman is always a blessing.

“You gotta love somebody who will get up there and risk personal embarrassment for the sake of the kids,” she said. “Volunteers like Jermaine show kids it’s okay to put your reputation on the line for something you believe in.”

For Goodman, being a good man and volunteering comes from a simple but very deep place in his heart.

“Someone was there for me once,” Goodman explained. “I just want to be there for someone.”

“Volunteering is extremely important for Soldiers,” he continued. “It shows our community we are more than just fighters. We have hearts and minds and actually care about what goes on around us.”

Mock promotion board helps Soldiers tackle nerves, succeed

Story and photo by
Sgt. Michael J. Taylor
172nd Infantry Brigade

You’ve been studying for weeks. You asked your peers to throw a few questions at you here and there. Now the day has come, you feel a little nervous but you think you’ve got it.

Three loud knocks on the door and you’re told to enter. You walk in confidently, salute correctly and take your seat.

Then it begins, the first question is asked and you can’t even remember your name.

Nervousness has set in and you blow it all.

Luckily this was just a mock board.

In order to get promoted to the ranks of sergeant or staff sergeant, Soldiers must go through the daunting task of appearing in front of a promotion board full of senior officers or enlisted personnel.

All of the book studying in the world is not enough to prepare Soldiers for the unexpected turning of the stomach, for the sudden heat flashes, for the 160 beats-per-second of the heart, for nervousness.

That’s where mock boards come in.

For the four months spent in country so far, Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade’s senior non-commissioned officers have worked hard to set junior Soldiers up for success by putting together mock boards for those Soldiers with the aspirations of becoming NCOs or taking the next step to become a Staff Sgt.

Mock boards are practice boards.

They are used to gauge where a Soldier

stands and whether or not he or she is ready for the real thing.

Mock boards not only help Soldiers see where they stand, it also helps them to conquer the nervousness that comes from being in the hot seat.

“I was glad that I attended the HHC mock board,” said Cpl. Johnathan Trump, a radio telephone operator in the Brigade Combat Team Tactical Operation Center, from Allentown, Pa., assigned to HHC, 172nd Inf. Bde.

“The first time I attended, I already knew that I was not ready to attend the actual board.”

“Soldiers usually come to the mock board a little nervous and unprepared,” said 1st Sgt. Jason Pingo, with HHC, 172nd Inf. Bde.

“What we try to do is put them in a similar atmosphere so that when they get to the real board they can know what to expect and how to act.”

Upon completion of the mock board, Soldiers are usually coached on areas such as eye contact, proper ways to address board members, answering questions, saluting with a weapon, and basic board etiquette.

The board members usually tell the attendee whether or not they think he or she is ready to attend the real board.

“I was more nervous in the mock board than I was in the actual board,” Trump stated.

“I believe that attending the mock board prepares Soldiers drastically to deal with nervousness issues and having an idea of what to expect.”

“With a little self preparation and attending the mock board, Soldiers have the key ingredi-



Spc. Timothy P. Stallberg fields questions from board members during the mock board held here at the HHC, 172nd Infantry Brigade conference room April 17. Stallberg is preparing himself to attend the promotion board scheduled for May 7.

ents for success in the promotion board,” said Trump.

Unit-level promotion boards are a key part of Army enlisted military traditions.

They can play a major role in the careers of Soldiers with the goals of climbing the progres-

sion ladder through the enlisted ranks.

Senior NCOs from HHC, 172nd Inf. Bde. continue to set future leaders up for success by equipping them with the knowledge and confidence needed to achieve both their personal and military goals of career progression.

Students learn environmental lessons, stewardship though hands-on activities

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

Approximately 90 Ansbach elementary school children took a trip to the woods around the Oberdachstetten training range for lessons on being good environmental stewards April 22. Garrison environmental division staff



Matthias Rühl shows students bees in the process of building a hive to make honey April 22 at Earth Day events held at the Oberdachstetten training area.

members set up the Earth Day event for children from all three elementary schools to help raise environmental awareness among community children. Raising awareness in children now will hopefully protect the Earth for the future, said Christian Loos, core compliance manager for the garrison’s environmental management division,

who coordinated the day’s events. “We are here to raise awareness and educate the children about the importance of our environment,” said Loos. “Keeping the environment healthy is vital to our future. Protection and conservation are key,” he said. “The main thing is the children need to learn that if they want to use the environment, to get something from it, they have to protect the environment.” In order to learn a little bit about protecting the environment, the children were split up into five groups and rotated through five stations - forestry, senses, bees, sheep and firefighters. The kinds of animals involved in the environmental process - like bees and how they need pollen from the plants to make honey - need to have a healthy environment, said Loos. “We want to use the environment in a sustainable way which is about using the environment in a friendly way, so future generations can also use the products that come from the environment,” he said. But it is current generations that can impact the environment now and for the future, said Beverly Nett, fifth-grade teacher at the Illesheim school. “This is the generation that needs to take care of our environment. To know the problems and correct them - be aware and be eco-friendly; they are responsible for their environment,” she said. And one student, 10-year-old Claire Torza, agreed. “It is important to know what we are doing to the land and how we can fix it,” she said.

As the children rotated through the stations, not only were the lessons sticky like honey for them, they were likewise for parents, too, like Amber Christensen. “I think it is great that they are exposing them to things they have not seen before and helping them understand why we need to protect nature and the environment instead of keeping them in the classroom all the time - the hands-on learning sticks better,” she said. With the fun of environmental exposure, lessons learned are better retained from the environmental classroom, said fifth-grade teacher Eddie Jordan of Illesheim Elementary School. “This brings nature to the children,” he said. “Most of the time students learn about nature in the confines of the classroom - hands-on experience is sometimes the best way to go. Bringing them out into nature, in this setting, helps them build on other things they have learned in class.” With the huge educational opportunity an environmental classroom provides, fifth graders are the target age to learn about the Earth and what they can do to preserve their future, said Manfred Meyer, chief of the environmental management division. “They are at the right age to learn all this. Through programs such as this, they will know about the environment in the future and will appreciate it more,” he said. “The goal is that the children develop an interest first in nature, that their behavior is more nature oriented. This way when they spread their knowledge with the other kids and with their parents, it will benefit all of us.”

Renovated storage room marks Ansbach’s committment to saving money, resources

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

Displaying its dedication to improving services, saving money and cutting out waste, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach revealed its newly-created Lean Six Sigma training room that offers more than just four pretty walls. The new facility is a sign of the times in Ansbach, said John Hirstein, lead management analyst with the plans, analysis and integration office. “We take LSS seriously,” said Hirstein. “LSS is moving in the right direction for the garrison in 2009 with various events scheduled.” LSS is a combining of two business strategies - Lean and Six Sigma, according to the U.S. Army’s Knowledge Center on LSS. Lean was designed to optimize automotive manufacturing and Six Sigma evolved as a quality initiative to eliminate defects by reducing variation in processes in the semiconductor

industry. It is now a leading process improvement strategy for the Army. The most recent event for the garrison was turning an old heated storage attic into a new LSS Solution Center. “We needed a room to facilitate all the activities we are planning, which we were to have, but did not,” said Hirstein. “This was the trigger mechanism to get this thing done.” Renovating the room was itself an LSS project. Starting out as an attic storage facility in the garrison headquarters, the room is now a clean, renovated, flagship or beacon model for other garrisons, Hirstein added. The room was full of junk storage and by turning the project into a success event it helped the garrison and the region earn reputations as LSS movers and shakers, he said. “By doing so, we gain credibility, savings and get recognized—in the Lean Six Sigma world and IMCOM (Installation Management Command),” said Hirstein.

“The end result is having a training center for Lean Six Sigma - so it was a perfect match.” And the extra space is a win-win for all as well. “Instead of everyone going to Heidelberg for Lean Six Sigma training, why not sponsor a class and bring an LSS instructor here,” said Hirstein. “Instead of having nine people go there and pay temporary duty costs for them, have one person come here and conduct the training there. Plus, this shows Ansbach is moving up and evolving. We understand, we get it and we are practicing it every day.” By comparison to last year, Ansbach gets it, he added. “The renovation project was a cost savings of \$19,250,” Hirstein said. “We recognized and redistributed usable items to different organizations, preventing them from having to purchase new ones.” Not only does it save precious funds, Hirstein hopes the room will add even more value to agencies. The

multi-purpose facility is not only for LSS or even just Ansbach. “The garrison will offer many LSS classes in it over the year, but if the facility is available any unit can sign up to use it as well - an extra conference room, so five staff members do not have to drive far just to hold a meeting,” said Hirstein. State-of-the-art equipment is being planned, but for now the room currently has basic networking available with a standalone computer, he added. As people learn about the project Hirstein hopes they can in turn understand and learn the principles of LSS, and thus come and use the facility or even follow suit and develop their own room or other projects. “We are growing our knowledge and we now have a knowledge center,” he said. “The more meetings we have up there that aren’t really geared to LSS, we hope that people will start reading what we have on the walls, will connect with those thoughts and will start asking the right questions

- a stage or forum, our own dedicated room.” Using LSS can bring great changes, Hirstein said. “We copied another garrison’s LSS project,” he said. “Its computer shut-down event model policy (turning off computers at the end of the work day) now saves Ansbach about \$161,000 a year. We learned from them, applied our numbers and we will get the same result--savings. Everybody in Europe should be following that lead.” In the end, Hirstein said the point is savings. “This is the foundation of success,” he said. “It is a simple process you can do for yourself. We are good stewards. If we all go back and look at our daily processes and save resources, by leaning ourselves out by doing a better job on tasks, we could save even more. “That maintains integrity. If you cannot maintain your own area with integrity, how do you expect anybody else to?,” Hirstein added.

School-wide initiative maintains, monitors student success

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

Ansbach Middle High School’s Continuous School Progress initiative seeks to ensure the school provides the best possible service it can to community children while setting students up for lifelong success. The initiative is a large part of the school’s curriculum, said Cheryl Downey, school communications committee chairperson and psychologist. “The Continuous School Progress shows what is going on in school, specifically as it pertains to our school improvement plan,” Downey said. “It is a way to make parents aware of the school’s efforts and also allows them to reinforce the skills we are attempting to teach.” The CSP is based on the school’s mission and its “Big 6,” the idea that the goal of education must be to teach children how to learn and to give them the skills to apply the information to real-world situations, said Jo Anne Giubilato, art teacher at the school who is one of the team members working on the initiative. The “Big 6” are information skills that provide

The students are our customers and we need to know what they need to progress in life for their future - test higher to go to college, test higher to attend better schools, get better jobs - it is for their benefit.

Jo Anne Giubilato, CSP Team Member

a more formal structure to problem solving:
#1 Task Definition
#2 Information Seeking Strategies
#3 Location and Access of Information
#4 Use of Information
#5 Synthesis
#6 Evaluation
“The idea is to focus on what the school does to really be up to par with education in the modern world,” said Giubilato. “For Ansbach, our specific focus is on writing skills and problem solving. For example, teachers add to their programs a specific writing task benefiting the students.” Downey even applies the problem-solving model in her work as school psychologist. “I find

the problem-solving model very useful in helping students learn how to solve personal problems in their everyday lives,” she said. CSP is all about the students, said Giubilato. “The students are our customers and we need to know what they need to progress in life for their future - test higher to go to college, test higher to attend better schools, get better jobs - it is for their benefit,” she said. “DODEA (Department of Defense Education Activity) comes up with what needs to be worked on every school year and bases that analysis on student testing results.” Terra Nova testing scores determine where to place emphasis and gives the school an overall idea of where it stands, Giubilato said. “We are in a good place now, but we can

always be better,” she said. The Terra Nova test is a national test that all DODEA students take, but it is used by the school’s improvement team to measure whether or not the school’s standards and goals are being met, said Cindy Blachly, an art teacher at the school. “It is a basic skills assessment, using the student’s data for evaluation.” The school relooks its goals with each new cycle of Terra Nova testing, said Principal Jennifer Rowland. “CSP is a five-year process in working toward improvement in the areas for which we have set goals,” she said. “We are in year three of the process and are awaiting the return of our Terra Nova results to determine if we have shown improvement. We will also be evaluating local assessment data during the month of May.” The CSP initiative is plugged into every school subject. “Drama, language arts, science, technology--all areas,” said Giubilato. “It is an ongoing process and shows that Ansbach is on the cutting edge of education. The children here are getting the great benefit of attending a school that is really involved in students’ education.”

Bike rally offers safety, repair skills

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

In between the bouts of drizzling rain, the cub scouts gathered for a bicycle rally April 18 at the Schweinfurt bicycle safety course.

Within the large fenced-in area was a road course complete with European signs, traffic signals and roundabouts. The only thing missing was the presence of automobiles.

“It’s nice getting him out of the house and not having to worry about cars,” said Sarah Gumm about her 8-year-old son.

The course offers a safe place for children to learn all about traffic rules in a real setting.

“It’s the best one in Germany ... according to the (German police) that I talked to. People come from all over the place,” said Louise Hurley, a volunteer for cub scouts.

Hurley walked the children through the course before they were allowed to ride it on their bicycles. Each sign and intersection was explained with brief demonstrations to ensure the kids understood the concepts.

“In general, most kids wouldn’t know” what the signs meant, Hurley said explaining why walking through the course was so essential for the first- through fourth-graders.

In addition to the course walk-through, the kids rotated to different activity areas during the morning.

Their first order of business included a full

bicycle inspection. Volunteers, some from the 15th Engineer Battalion, helped by performing brake checks, inspecting the tires, and adjusting seats. Others taught the kids how to properly position and strap on helmets. Another station provided helpful basic repair skills of tightening a loose chain and fixing a flat tire.

“I think I can change a tire, but it’s good for the parents that don’t know how. As far as messing with the brakes, I would need help,” said Trisha Swienton, Tiger Den leader.

With the onset of the sunny weather, bicycles are coming out of storage and now is the perfect time to check bicycles for safety, said Joe Garcia, cub master.

“My idea was to get them a bicycle belt loop and to help out the Soldiers that are deployed,” Garcia said, explaining that since many parents are deployed, the spouse back in Schweinfurt may appreciate the extra help with safety precautions.

Not only did the morning prove valuable for bike inspections, but it also provided an opportunity for the volunteers to impart basic bicycle knowledge on the aspiring riders.

“There’s better things for us to do on the weekends than just sleeping all day - we can help some kids,” said Spc. Robert Beggs, and adult volunteer from 15th Engineer Battalion.

Check lists were sent home with parents if additional safety accessories were required for the bicycles and then the kids set off for their morning joy-rides.



Alex Garcia, left, listens as 2nd Lt. Brent Johnson, an Eagle Scout and volunteer from the 15th Engineer Battalion, explains how to check the tread on his tires.

Start smart develops skills, prepares children for sports

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Throw a ball out on the field and some kids know exactly what to do with it. But in most cases, kids could use the extra help learning how to play sports to begin developing those basic motor skills.

That is exactly the purpose of the

youth sports and fitness start smart developmental activities held at both School Age Services and the Child Development Center each week.

“Even if children are not actively involved in our sports programs ... it’s still available to them,” said Adio Toliver, youth sports program associate, explaining that because the start smart program takes place at SAS and the CDC, the kids aren’t required

to sign up for the team sport season.

But those who choose to use the program as an introduction to team sports for their little ones will find numerous benefits.

“It’s giving them great preparation ... rather than just throwing them into the sport,” said Robert Davis, child and youth program assistant.

Soccer, flag football, baseball, and a medley or obstacle course are available for children ages 3 to 7 throughout the year.

Many times, the particular sport skill sets are taught to the kids just before the actual season starts for that sport.

“It’s like a normal progression. That way they will be ready for when the actual season starts,” Davis said.

“Usually for the soccer season we would have trouble keeping them on the field— they’d be running off picking flowers ... so now they are a little bit more focused and they know exactly what to do when they get out there,” Davis said of the kids who participated in start smart beforehand.

At SAS and the CDC, the interested kids learn ball-handling skills: how to dribble, pass, and more.

The sports are introduced with modified equipment that still functions the same but is much softer.

“The kids’ biggest fear is getting hit by the ball, so if you give them a soft ball ... that takes the fear away,” said Daniel Jones, director of youth sports and fitness, explaining how they use a koosh rubberband ball in place of a baseball initially.

“It’s using developmentally correct tools to teach a sport,” he said

“When you get hit with it, it’s not a bruise, it just bounces off.”



Eighth-grader maps out a course to National Geographic Bee

by **MARK HEETER**
Schweinfurt CI Chief

A quiz for the student of geography: what lies right between Delaware and the District of Columbia?

It’s the Department of Defense Dependent Schools – at least it is on the list of 2009 state-level winners of the National Geographic Bee.

And the student who will represent the worldwide DoDDS system at the National Geographic Bee in Washington May 20 and 21 comes from a school in a northern Bavarian

town called Schweinfurt.

Miguel Guevara, eighth-grader at Schweinfurt Middle School, won three levels of geography bees over the past several months to capture the title of DoDDS champion and will compete against winners from all the states and U.S. territories for



Guevara

the national title.

“I like reading, and I like countries and things,” said Guevara, who ventured into the geography bee two years ago, while in school at Camp Zama, Japan.

“I did it on a whim,” he said with a smile. “I had no idea what (the bee) was. I had an interest in history, so that helped me a lot.”

Born in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, and a former resident of Texas, Colorado, and Japan, with a grandmother living in Austria, Guevara acknowledged that the geography bee

Entertainment director garners “Top” honors

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

With 600 people in attendance at the annual Tournament of Plays “Topper” Awards Show in Heidelberg April 18, the Schweinfurt community theater director, Garland Travis, was presented the top award for best set design for a musical. “School House Rock Live,” performed at the Abrams Entertainment Center in March, boasted the winning set that garnered the prize.

“On a human level, it’s awesome to get up and get a trophy,” Travis said. But, “It’s not so much for the individual that wins the award; it’s what it does for the program.”

Collecting trophies on the shelf for the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt community theater gives a “boost for the program.” And Travis didn’t want to take all the credit for the winning set. His key constructor of the set, Douglas Naillon, was there with him for 50 hours a week for nearly six weeks crafting the masterpiece.

“I couldn’t have won the award without him,” Travis said. “Good design doesn’t always mean good execution. Unfortunately, they don’t give an award for construction.”

“I’ve been building stuff since I was a kid. Just basic manual labor, it was fun,” Naillon said, explaining

how his daughter and wife were taking part in the musical, so he didn’t mind putting so much work into it.

The three roving judges that attended the musical in Schweinfurt particularly praised the usefulness of the set. Entries and exits weren’t just conventional doors - the actors were popping out of cupboards and closets, appearing from under the bed, and entering the stage from the bath tub.

The numerous entry points also accomplished the task of getting the performers on and off stage quickly. “Everything was used. There wasn’t anything on that set that wasn’t used,” Naillon said. The adjudicators commendations ultimately scored the award for Travis’ design.

Although, the top award was shared with the Ansbach Terrace Playhouse for best set design for a musical, the value of the evening, sponsored by Installation Management Agency – Europe, was not diminished.

Fourteen nominations were also garnered by other key players involved in the Schweinfurt musical production. “Some folks would think that the nominations are handed out like candy, but they’re not at all,” Travis said.

In addition, the “School House Rock Live” musical trio Joyce Dodson, Lisa Eubanks, and Melissa Westerfield with piano accompanist Dora Lewis were asked to perform at the Awards Show.

On a human level, it’s awesome to get up and get a trophy. (But), It’s not so much for the individual that wins the award; it’s what it does for the program.

Garland Travis
Topper Award Winner

the National Geographic Society in a press release about the bee. (The press release and more information regarding the competition can be found at <http://press.nationalgeographic.com/pressroom>).

Still, Guevara can identify, without a split-second of hesitation, Accra as the capital of Ghana and the Amazon as the second-longest river in the world.

“It has the most of volume but it’s the second longest,” he said. He might need to know that at the National Geographic Bee.

‘Meaningful activities’ help Soldiers regain independence, aid in rehabilitation process

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Staff. Sgt. Erick Cedeno holds a small, golden ornament of the Emblem of the U.S. Army, about four inches in diameter and flips it on its back to display small interlocking pieces that hold it together. It took him about 15 minutes to put it together.

“We’ve had guys here that it takes them weeks to finish it,” said Cedeno, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Occupational Therapy in the Bavaria Medical Department Activity.

The Army emblem, model cars, and interactive television-based games are some of the tools in the BMEDDAC Occupational Therapy kit to help patients regain independence in their everyday lives following injury or illness.

“We look at that person holistically, so if there has been a deficit or an injury we would look at that level of where they were functioning before, where they’re functioning now and then helping them reach that, but using some of their meaningful activities that are meaningful to them as the rehab process,” said Sindy McCord, occupational therapist for Mild Traumatic Brain Injury at the Bamberg Health Clinic.

“We cover your activities of daily living, your work, your play and your leisure,” said

Angie Holliday, McCord’s counterpart at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

Different than physical therapy, OT is focused on more than physical injuries in its effort to help patients regain independence in their meaningful activities.

Still, they are part of the larger group of medical professionals helping patients recover, McCord said. “We’re part of a team. We’re not just standing alone here. There’s psychologists, PTs, nurses, speech therapists, all working together to evaluate,” she said. Soldiers are likely more closely monitored than patients not affiliated with the military, a recipe for success, said Capt. Patrice Stange, chief of OT for BMEDDAC.

“Here, they’re identified early on, when they come back (from deployment) and go through reset,” Stange said. “Here it seems like there are a lot of mechanisms built in to follow up with people.” And the OT corps is a small, well-connected group that works well among themselves throughout the Army, Stange said.

The three OT clinics in the Bavarian footprint are available, with referrals, to all eligible beneficiaries.

In Schweinfurt, call DSN 354-7051/6278, CIV 09721-967051 or 966278. In Bamberg, call DSN 469-8969, CIV 0951-300-8969. In Vilseck, call DSN 476-3966, CIV 09662-83-3966.



Staff Sgt. Erick Cedeno, NCOIC, BMEDDAC occupational therapy clinics, demonstrates a piece of equipment used to help patients regain independence following injury or illness.

Art explodes at SES for “I am art” show

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

The individual person is a part of nature’s art, according to Schweinfurt Elementary School art teacher Angela Oliverson, and the “I am art” show April 30 at the school gave elementary students the chance to display their artistic abilities to the community.

“It’s our annual art show, but this time it’s much fancier. We wanted the kids to be able to really show off their strengths - that anyone can make art, because art is sharing. Art is sharing how you feel, what you think, what you like,” Oliverson said.

The “red carpet” art show, sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association, dictated that attendees come a little dressed-up. But no special invitation was required—the event was open to

the entire community.

Art of various forms were displayed by children between kindergarten and fifth-grade including digital projects, imaginary animals, unique pizza displays, and of course the traditional drawings and paintings.

Students could submit up to five pieces and as many as possible were displayed in the show— making the multipurpose room an “explosion” of color.

The evening began with PTA elections followed directly by a silent auction for those students who chose to sell their art; the proceeds returned to the PTA.

During the time that attendees were given to mill about, write their bids, and enjoy food and drink, individual students shared their art experience verbally on stage.

“I try to teach the children that art is you and

you are art.

“You have all of your amazing thoughts and dreams inside your head, and if you can learn how to pull those out and show them off to the rest of the world, that’s what art is,” Oliverson said.

After the verbal presentations, awards were presented to the top artists in each grade level in a short ceremony, and then a group of students shared their art in the form of dance as the grand finale.

“I think it’s awesome. I’m completely exhausted ... but it’s the kind of exhaustion that you love, and everything I do, I enjoy. It’s all about art,” Oliverson said.

“Not all children are academically successful. Children should be honored for all talents and this night (showcased) just that,” said Kim Brice, choreographer of the dance.

Gym users spin away calories in boot camp

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Ready for an intense workout to get prepared for the spring and summer months?

Boot camp spinning just began and it welcomes beginners as well as the advanced to start conditioning the hips, legs, and backside.

“The great thing about spinning is you can have the beginners and the advanced people because, you as a participant, you control how hard or how much resistance that you’re putting on there. You control your intensity,” said Paul Stubbs, director of the Kessler Fitness Center and instructor for the boot camp spinning.

“I used to do it before back in the day. It’s, like, the best workout to shape up real quick and lose weight,” said Christine Blow, participant in the noon class Tuesdays.

According to Stubbs, spinning is one of the only true calorie burners on a machine indoors.

Others machines like the treadmill or elliptical offer estimated burned calories as motivation for those who use them to work out.

These machines also pull or propel the person exercising along a path in some fashion, which is not the case for spin bike workouts.

“You’re the motor on that spin bike, and that’s why it’s real calories,” Stubbs said.

Kessler Fitness Center offers spinning classes Monday through Thursday every week at various times during the day.

Some choose Tuesday’s workout because it fits their work schedule.

“It’s a great workout for the short amount of time that I have. It’s convenient at lunch time, and then ... I feel refreshed and I have a lot of time after work that I can go home and relax,” said Selena Ala, participant in the boot camp spinning class.

In 30 minutes, spinning may burn from 400 to 600 calories, depending upon the level of resistance that the participant uses by a simple turn of a knob, Stubbs said.

“Each time you turn it, it’s like brake power. The more you turn it, the harder it gets,” Stubbs said.

Part of the 30-minute workout also includes about 10 minutes off the bike working with weights and core strengthening.

“It’s like a total body workout,” Stubbs said. “It’s designed ... to get you in shape a lot faster.”

With the instructor’s enthusiastic shouts of encouragement over the invigorating music, 30 minutes will be over in no time at all and participants may even find that getting in shape is more enjoyable than they thought.

“That was my first time ... I loved it,” said Milena Jackson, after her first try with the boot camp spinning class.

YEAR OF THE NCO

Staff sergeant, volunteer exemplifies NCO Creed

by **MARK HEETER**
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Step up to the plate.

Staff Sgt. Rafael Cabrera, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, did just that for his

fellow noncommissioned officers, volunteering to take on a teaching mission after another instructor was unable to teach a level one Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course.

“They were going to cancel the class for BNCOC. And he stepped up and said, ‘I’ll teach it.’ He didn’t have to do that,” said USAG

Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee.

Cabrera, recalling the phrase “backbone of the Army” from the NCO Creed, is keenly aware of the role of the NCO as a trainer throughout the Army. “For example, when an officer comes into the Army, who is the first person to get a hold of them and train them? An NCO,” Cabrera said. “When you go to basic training and (Advanced Individual Training), Soldiers, privates, when they come into the Army, who’s the first one to get hold of them and train them? An NCO,” he continued.

Cabrera, a nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist with two years under his belt as a staff sergeant, will soon wear three hats in the garrison.

“And he’s up to it,” Lee said. “He’s a go-getter and he takes care of his Soldiers, and his mission and his family members,” he added.

Upon reaching the rank of staff sergeant, according to Lee, Soldiers have to expand their focus beyond simply accomplishing the mission.

“When you have that staff sergeant that takes good care of the Soldiers and the family members, their focus is totally different,” he said.

“A sergeant sometimes, they get on that even path, and they stay there. A staff sergeant might be on that path, but then he says, ‘Wait a minute. I need to do that something extra,’” Lee added.

This is a distinction that helps him and the Soldier, Cabrera said. “Also when that Soldier comes to that staff sergeant with a problem with the family, that staff sergeant has to know the right way to handle that problem or where to get help.”

1st Lt. Enilda Flores-Cabrera, 7th Army Reserve Command, administers the oath of enlistment to her husband, Staff Sgt. Rafael Cabrera, in the USAG Schweinfurt headquarters building April 17.



Photo by George Ohl

For more on the Year of the NCO, visit
www.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.html.



Hohenfels Tiger Darren Mesch pitches to Wiesbaden in the second game of their double header April 25 at Hohenfels.

Hohenfels victorious after ‘pitching duel’

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Hohenfels and Wiesbaden, two teams both working to synchronize the performance of players with varying degrees of ability, each added a win to their record following their two-game matchup at Hohenfels April 25.

After playing a double header against Bamberg the day before, Wiesbaden was able to keep their energy up enough to beat Hohenfels 12-10 in the first game.

The second game saw Hohenfels ahead two runs to zero after the first inning, a lead they held until the bottom of the fourth.

Wiesbaden coach Steve Jewell said it was largely Hohenfels’ pitching that kept his team down for the first few innings.

Then it was Wiesbaden’s pitching that seemed to take control as they kept Hohenfels from scoring again through the sixth inning while Wiesbaden earned two runs in the fourth and three in the fifth.

“It became a pitching duel for a while there, as baseball sometimes does,” said Jewell.

Hohenfels was finally able to break through when they scored four runs in the seventh, getting

their fourth when Bryce Cooper stole home at the end of the inning.

Running on Cooper’s momentum, the Tigers went on to score seven more runs in the extra eighth inning.

Wiesbaden did not give up without a fight, scoring one run in the seventh and four in the eighth inning, for a final score of 13-7.

“When Cooper stole home, that was really critical,” said Hohenfels coach Darren Mesch.

“We started having trouble with our pitching after the fifth game (of the week),” said Jewell.

“We tucked out there at the end and Hohenfels did really well at the end; we didn’t give anything away.”

Mesch said after their fourth game of the season the Tigers are progressing well in their hitting ability, though he wants to work more on all their core skills.

After the game, Jewell pointed out to his team that Hohenfels, though they were down five to two at one point, never let themselves give up.

Hohenfels will play two more home games this season: Saturday against Bamberg and May 16 against Ansbach.

The baseball and softball European Championships are scheduled for May 21-23 at Ramstein and Kaiserslautern.

Grafenwoehr bowlers prepare for Masters Championship

Story and photo by
TROY MASON
USAG Grafenwoehr MWR Marketing

Spc. Kevin Reasoner was at the top of his game and the leader board after the completion of the three day U.S. Forces Europe Bowling Championships held in Heidelberg, Germany April 15-17.

Reasoner, after bowling 18 games, rolled an all-events total pin fall of 3,969, just beating out Holton Stallworth of Hohenfels by 51 pins to seal the title.

“After bowling the first shift in the Singles, I felt I needed to have a great day,” Reasoner said. “I shot a 1,254 and thought my chances of winning were not that good. I did expect to bowl well. Any competition you have to think like that. I have the Tiger Woods Syndrome where I don’t think anyone can beat me. Some may take that the wrong way but that’s my mentality going into any tournament or competition.”

But Reasoner wasn’t the only bowler who was on the top of his game.

Ning Williams, a member of the Grafenwoehr Women’s Team, was rolling on all cylinders in the

competition and finished with an impressive second place in all events with a total pin fall of 3,181.

“It was a good time and a great opportunity to test my abilities against different bowlers,” Williams said. “I will be bowling in the Masters next month.”

Terri Chapman, who placed 3rd in all events with a total of 3,099, said, “The conditions were challenging and I wasn’t truly bowling to my potential. I’m strongly considering competing in the Master’s Tournament in Mannheim over Memorial Day Weekend.”

In the team category for both Grafenwoehr women and men, the women’s team of Linda Reasoner, Chapman, Williams and Sgt. First Class Joni Austin collectively brought home the second place team award.

As for the men’s team Sgt. 1st Class Ray Austin, John Ham, John Barbeau and Kevin Reasoner brought home the third place team award.

“It was an honor to be part of the teams representing the Grafenwoehr community,” Austin said.

In the doubles category the women’s team took second place, played by Austin and Chapman, ending with a combined pin fall of 2,106.

The men’s doubles, played by

Hohenfels’ Holton Stallworth and Staff Sgt. Kimo Ortiz, placed second with a pin fall of 2,499.

Francis McClellan and Sgt. Nick Green finished with third place honors with a pin fall of 2,485.

“I was happy when I found out we had won our division and a little disappointed that we lost by 18 pins,” said Austin. “I didn’t bowl better than I usually do so I was a little disappointed but still happy we placed second.”

“Bowling is no longer ‘just a game’ to me; it is my passion and I strongly desire to become the best bowler I can,” said McClellan. “For me, the better I get at the game, the more enjoyment I get as a result. Like the USAREUR Championships, I am working on the finer points of my game so I can be more competitive in the Masters tournament.”

The next big tournament is the U.S. Bowling Congress 2009 All-Stars/Masters Championships, which will be held at the Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim May 22-25.

The Grafenwoehr men and women’s squads will prepare, once again, to take on the biggest bowling challenges in their bowling profession - to be called the Europe All Stars/Masters of Bowling.



Spc. Kevin Reasoner took the all-events pin total during the U.S. Forces Bowling Championship April 15-17. He, along with the Grafenwoehr men and women’s squad, will prepare for the Europe All Stars May 22-25 in Mannheim.

YOUR TEAM IS IMPORTANT TO US!

If you’re having a team or unit function let us know!

Contact your local public affairs office or e-mail mary.markos@us.army.mil.



Wounded warrior races to recovery

Story and photo by
CHRIS GOLDEN
2d Cavalry Association

Sgt. Michael Minard completed his first full 26 mile marathon April 20 with an official time of 3 hours, 8 minutes and 6 seconds. While finishing the Boston Marathon would be major milestone in anyone’s life, for Minard it is a significant step on his way back to an athletic life that he knew before October of 2007.

In October 2007 Sergeant Minard was injured by an improvised explosive device in Iraq while serving with the 1st Squadron of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

As a result of those injuries Minard lost both of his legs and is still a patient at Walter Reed Army Medical Center near Washington, D.C.

Minard was participating in the race under the sponsorship of Achilles International, Inc. - in particular the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. He and the other members of the team were flown to Boston by the “Veterans Airlift Command” at no cost.

Minard hopes to finally leave Walter Reed in August and move into a new home in Northern New Jersey provided by “Homes for Troops.” Minard said he is looking forward to a time when he can give back to other veterans, as so many have given to him.

Sgt. Michael Minard finishes the Boston Marathon in 3 hours, 8 minutes and 6 seconds April 20. Minard was injured by an improvised explosive device while serving in Iraq in October 2007.

Grafenwoehr thespians nab nineteen nominations at annual awards show

Story and photo by
MARY MARKOS
Editor

The squeals and shrieks of teenage girls could be heard throughout the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion Ballroom in Heidelberg April 18 as ‘the kids’ from the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center’s “Miss Nelson is Missing!” were announced best ensemble in a comedy at the Installation Management Command-Europe Tournament of Plays award ceremony.

‘The kids,’ a cast of seven middle and high school students from the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr rushed to the stage to accept the coveted golden statue.

Also appearing on stage from the garrison was Holly Matesick, who accepted the award for best supporting actress in a drama for her role in “Agnes of God,” and the wife and daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Fred Moore who received a special award for outstanding technical contribution to a community theatre program.

(Moore is currently serving in Afghanistan and was unable to attend the ceremony).

Known as “Toppers,” the awards show recognized the best of the 2009 theater season in over 40 categories for productions, both comedies and dramas, throughout U.S. military and international community theaters in Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Turkey.

A record 88 Toppers and 216 framed nomination certificates were presented this year, with Grafenwoehr receiving 19 nods and three wins.

Relatively new in the theatre arena, the G-PAC was formed less than a year ago. In roughly eight months they performed three major productions: “Seussical the Musical,” “Agnes of God” and “Miss Nelson is Missing!,” two of which were judged for the Tournament of Plays.

The numerous nominations for the young organization, however, came as no surprise to G-PAC Director Joline Powell.

“It is a pleasure to receive such recognition for our first efforts into the Tournament of Plays. I knew we had a stellar group of cast and crew. (The nominations) were warranted and well deserved,” Powell said.

“I knew very early on (the kids) would give other nominees a run for their money... Here is a group of young people with such different backgrounds, attitudes, dreams and personalities that came together to mount such an extraordinary end result,” she added.

“I wasn’t surprised until I heard my name called toward the end of the evening,” Powell said.

And Powell’s name was called not once, but twice for best director – one for the comedy “Miss Nelson is Missing!” and the other for the “Agnes of God” drama.

Powell’s nominations were no surprise to the cast of the productions, or those who have watched her build the G-PAC program.

“We knew that in Joline we have a rising star in the field of performing arts and the number of nominations for her, as well as her productions, is a testimony to that fact,” said Andrew Snoddy, the USAG Grafenwoehr’s Department of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Recreation Division chief.

Powell, who said her nominations are merely a reflection of the talented volunteers who dedicate themselves to bringing the performances to life, beamed with pride as her ‘stars’ accepted their statues on stage.

“Holly is an amazing actress that seems to always strike gold, and certainly not by accident... She can take a role and make it hers without compromises. Even with the most extreme roles, and I believe Agnes was one of them, she hands herself

over completely to the material, the show and the director,” Powell said of Matesick’s best supporting actress win.

For Moore, who Powell said stood “shoulder to shoulder” with her to build G-PAC from the ground up, Powell spoke with sincere gratitude.

“Fred is one of those volunteers that keeps going regardless of what’s happening around him, the group, or the theater... On more than one occasion, he was the only other person working with me to get the job completed,” she said.

Moore’s dedication as a volunteer did not go unnoticed by Snoddy either.

“To truly appreciate the herculean effort Fred put into our facility, you would have had to know what he started with,” he said.

“Our facility, in several different iterations, has been a dining facility, a youth gym, a storage facility and more. Fred took what was and via his abilities and ingenuity, created the outstanding facility we have today... all the credit in the world goes to Fred and the adjudication committee saw and recognized that fact.”

Both Powell and Snoddy said they hope the recognition the G-PAC has received through the nominations and wins will promote the arts and community theatre.

“Our desire and hope is these recognitions will serve as a catalyst and bring out those members of the USAG Grafenwoehr community who previously did not have a forum or venue where they could express their artistic abilities and talents. The theater is not all about just being on stage. The people behind the scene are critically important to a performance’s success as well,” Snoddy added.

For information on the G-PAC programs and volunteer opportunities, call Powell at DSN 475-6426, CIV 09641-83-6426, or email joline.powell@eur.army.mil.

Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center “Topper” Winners

Holly Matesick
Best Supporting Actress, Drama
Agnes of God

The Kids
Best Ensemble, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Fred Moore
Technical Director, Special Award

“Topper” Nominees

Technical Awards

Michelle Moore
Best Make-Up, Play
Miss Nelson is Missing!

Jessi Dye
Best Costumes, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Jessi Dye
Best Costumes, Drama
Agnes of God

Joline Powell
Best House Management
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

J.C. Smith
Best Sound, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Holly Matesick
Best Props, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Miss Nelson Is Missing!
Best Scene Painting, Play

Joline Powell
Best Set, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Holly Matesick
Best Stage Manager, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Performance Awards

Megan Markos
Best Female Youth Performer
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Johanna “Jobee” Kessler
Best Actress
Minor Role, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Jessi Dye
Best Actress, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Rebecca Connolly
Best Actress, Drama
Agnes of God

Amelia Stiles-Forman
Best Debut, Play
Agnes of God

Agnes of God cast
Best Ensemble, Drama

Joline Powell
Best Director, Comedy
Miss Nelson Is Missing!

Joline Powell
Best Director, Drama
Agnes of God

Miss Nelson Is Missing!
Best Comedy

Agnes of God
Best Drama

Financial data demonstrates Army’s commitment to Bavaria

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That value currently is 595 million Euro per year. Of that, 182 million Euro are spent on salaries and wages, 276 million on contract payments. An estimated 48.4 million Euro are spent by U.S. Soldiers, civilians and family members on the local economy each year. Aside from those purchases, an approximate 88 million Euro is spent on private rental housing by the U.S. Army.

Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr, which Sorenson referred to throughout the day as visitors toured newly constructed single Soldier barracks, is a United States Army Europe initiative to transform the garrison into a brigade-size facility.

With more than 150 construction projects included in the \$689 million program which is

scheduled for completion in 2011, Sorenson said EB-G cements the Army’s commitment to the region.

This commitment, said Col. Johann Stadler, Bavarian Bundesweher commander, brings a sense of stability to the area.

“We saw the figures - that 30,000 people are here and the amount of money that is spent here on a day by day basis around the area, in housing, where people live, and paying rent and so on. It is very important for the (German) people to have this security,” he said.

For Grafenwoehr Mayor Helmuth Wächter, security is also seen in the more than 4,000 local national employees that work at the garrison.

“The Army being here means continued employment security for the local national

employees and secondly, a big economic impact.

“We learned a lot about the vast economic impact the Army has on the region, an impact that is immensely important for the region, and we would like to see that continue,” he said.

The community relations council event, said Sorenson, was just as important in strengthening the bond between garrison officials and “those who support us the greatest.”

“We think about ourselves on the inside, but we have to think about what happens on the outside,” he said.

“A number of units have formed partnerships with neighboring towns. We want to keep building that so that everybody, German and American, has a relationship and a feeling of responsibility and

commitment.”

Himself deeply committed to the German-American relationship, Wächter said the event will help others understand the Army’s commitment to the region and the importance of its actions.

“We as a city fully support the United States Army’s presence here,” he said.

“Lots of the guests that were here today are what we call in Germany multipliers. In other words, they came here to learn something which they will multiply by telling it to others and passing that knowledge on that they gained today to other people.

“We had the media here today, so the media’s presence will pass information to the population and the local population will learn what the Army is doing here and that is of extreme importance.”

Top military leader calls for common tactics, procedures with partner nations

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“That’s just not the case,” he said. “We will learn as much from our partners as they will learn from us.”

When asked about the “Why” of building partnerships, General Ham offered three reasons:

1. Legitimacy: “The more nations involved, the more legitimacy it has, along with involvement from organizations like the United Nations,” he said.

2. Geographic proximity: “Some nations are very difficult to access.

For example, we rely on Afghanistan’s surrounding neighbors

for support,” he said.

3. “As other nations are willing and able, that means less U.S. personnel that have to be part of that fight,” General Ham said.

In speaking with the students gathered from 45 countries like Afghanistan, France, Ukraine and others, Ham talked about keys to success during disputes and discussed what role a military plays in the plan.

“In most cases, the military is an essential but nondecisive aspect to success,” he said.

“It is the rare circumstance where the military is the decisive

instrument.”

According to Ham, in building partnerships, there will be pitfalls.

For instance, he said the U.S. and partner militaries work “great” on an operational level, but face challenges on the tactical level.

He added that exercises and education are keys to success, but time, money and resources are precious because of war and struggling economies.

“We have to be persistent about developing tactical relationships,” he said. “There are great challenges, but the U.S. is not alone.”

Stickers offer benefits, support

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appreciate their business,” Jutta Carrington, president of the Grafenwoehr Business Association said.

According to Carrington, the VAT-form sticker program offers businesses participating two benefits – not only do they receive the sticker for their store window, but the Grafenwoehr Business Association also offers instruction on how to fill-out the form.

“The VAT-forms accepted sticker is not limited to just our business association members. Any business in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Freihung, Pressath, Eschenbach, Kirchenthumbach, and Auerbach can participate in the program.”

The campaign has just kicked-off, and Carrington estimated that already 60-80 percent of area businesses are participating.

“Most businesses already accepted the forms when asked. It’s up to the individual to decide at what point it is worth using a VAT-form (VAT forms

cost \$3-4 apiece depending on the number purchased), but we see this program as a way of making it easier for everyone.”

VAT-forms are available for purchase through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation VAT Office in Grafenwoehr, building 539, Room 131 (DSN 475-1780, CIV 09641-83-1780), and Vilseck, Building 224 (DSN 476-1780, CIV 09662-83-1780).



Courtesy image

New stickers are used by local stores to facilitate business from the American community.